



ABOVE: More Christmas swim photos.
(See pages 4 and 28).

Bridgend & Porthcawl

GEM



"Your ORIGINAL priceless weekly newspaper"

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 10TH, 2013

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LIFEGUARDS LAUNCH PUBLIC APPEAL... 'Theft of Quad rescue bike could cost lives'

— Rest Bay Club captain warns



LEFT: Club captain Chris Page on the Quad bike that was later stolen.

THE theft of their £8,500 emergency Quad bike has prompted Rest Bay Lifeguard Club to launch a fundraising appeal to replace the one stolen from the Lifeguard station.

A vital part of operations, it was used as a rapid response vehicle to reach casualties on the beach quickly, and also to launch a surf rescue powercraft to assist people in difficulties.

"The club has around 200 members from seven upwards and the quad bike was used to support training operations. Without the ability to tow and launch the safety boat to cover training sessions, these sessions could be put in jeopardy," said club captain Chris Page.

"We have been left devastated by how thieves could steal a rescue vehicle. To make matters worse, our insurers would not cover this vehicle for theft. As a result, we now need to raise a substantial amount of money before summer 2013 starts.

"Without the ability to reach casualties on the beach, or launch rescue powercraft quickly, I have no doubt that lives at Rest Bay will be at risk.

"In 2012, lifeguards at Rest Bay performed 93 first aids, found 26 missing children, rescued six people and assisted a further 17 from the water.

"The quad was used in a large percentage of these incidents.

"We are very grateful to members of the community who have already donated to the appeal, but still need your support, as we have a substantial amount to raise.

"If you're involved with an organisation or company who may be able to help out, please get in touch.

"You can contact us via our facebook or twitter pages or by email: info@restbaylifeguards.org.uk

"If you wish to donate to the appeal, please visit our online fundraising page, www.virginmoneygiving.com and search for Rest Bay."

Two sought after raid on restaurant

POLICE have launched an appeal for information, after an assault and burglary at The Blue Lounge Steakhouse Restaurant on The Esplanade, Porthcawl, in which a woman was injured.

"The incident occurred at around 3am on New Year's Day when two males were disturbed while inside the premises. Following their disturbance, one of the burglars assaulted a 44-year-old woman with a bottle, injuring her face," a spokesperson said this week.

Detectives have issued descriptions of the two suspects: One is described as white, around 5ft 6ins tall, of slight build with short, dark brown hair. He was wearing skinny fit dark jeans and a dark coloured T-shirt. He was aged in his late teens or early twenties.

The second male is also white and around 5ft 6ins tall, slim build,



LEFT: An e-fit image of one of the suspects.

Paul Mason, of Bridgend CID, said: "This was a very serious assault, which resulted in the victim receiving hospital treatment for her injuries.

"There were a number of people gathered outside the neighbouring take-away restaurant and we are appealing for anyone who may be able to assist us in apprehending those responsible to contact us."

Anyone with information is asked to contact DS Mason at Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555111.

Detective Sergeant

Lois
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Arson attack on Maes y Felin flat

POLICE are appealing for witnesses, after a "serious" arson attack at a flat on Maes y Felin, Wildmill.

It occurred between 10pm on Friday, December 28 and 9am on Sunday, December 30, when a bag of rubbish was placed against the front door and set alight.

Detective Constable Rebecca Merchant, of Bridgend CID, said: "This was a serious

incident which could have had a tragic outcome. Fortunately, the apartment was unoccupied at the time and the fire only caused damage to the front door.

"We are appealing for any witnesses, or anyone who may have information regarding this incident, to contact us."

Contact DC Merchant at Bridgend CID on 01656 679518 or 101 or Crimestoppers free in confidence on 0800 555111.

HANDBAG SNATCHER STRIKES IN CORNELLY

A HANDBAG snatcher is being hunted - after a woman was robbed in Cornelly last week.

Police in Bridgend are investigating the theft, which occurred shortly after 1pm on Wednesday, January 2.

A spokesman said: "A 30-year-old woman had her handbag snatched as she was walking at the junction of Heol Las and Heol Llan in North Cornelly.

"The victim was walking along Heol Las and, as she approached the junction with Heol Llan, her handbag was snatched by an unknown person who then made

off along Heol Llan."

The spokesman said that the stolen handbag was white leather with the Coco Channel emblem on the side. It contained more than £200 in cash.

The suspect is described as about five feet 10 inches tall and of broad build and wearing a dark hooded top and dark jeans.

Police are appealing for any witnesses, or for anyone with any information about this theft, to contact Sergeant Mathew Lewis at Maesteg police station on 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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Learners' £3,500 to local mental health charity



Left to right: Gayle Ford, ACT centre co-ordinator; Patsy Dierden, ACT skills trainer; Karen Powell, Mental Health Matters Wales; Tracey Watson, Mental Health Matters Wales; Andrew Cooksley, managing director of ACT Training.

A TEAM of learners from ACT Training has donated £3,500 to Welsh mental health charity, Mental Health Matters Wales.

Paige Sparrow, Ryan Gardener, Alex Mayhew and Shannon Mears, from ACT's Bridgend Skills Academy, came first in the UK Grand Final of the Lloyds TSB 'Money for Life' Challenge in May.

They received £100 of Lloyds TSB Bonus Bonds each, as well as the grand prize of £3,500 to donate to a charity of their choice.

The team of 17-year-olds presented the

cheque to Bridgend-based, Mental Health Matters, which provides services for local people with mental health issues.

The charity has branches in Bridgend, Caerphilly and Maesteg, and offers a number of services – including tenancy support, well-being drop-in centres, community advocacy and befriending for the over-50s, training, information, communication, lobbying and campaigning.

The donation will go towards supporting the Well-being drop-in centre at Bridgend.

ACT have worked closely with Mental

Health Matters Wales for over two years, with learners on the engagement programme visiting every Tuesday to do activities with the local people who use the charity's services.

As part of the 'Money for Life' challenge, the ACT learners served a three course meal for the users, ho spent a whole afternoon offering feedback on their budget menu.

Lisa Johns, area community services manager at Mental Health Matters Wales, said: "A donation of this size will make a real difference to our charity. It will enable

us to take the people who use our services on trips and provide workshops and activities during our well-being drop-ins.

"We have worked in partnership with ACT for a few years now and it's fantastic to meet young people who really want to do some good in their communities. We are thrilled that they won the chal-

lenge and really grateful that they thought of us when it came to making the donation."

Gayle Ford, centre co-ordinator at ACT's Bridgend Skills Academy, said:

"Our learners have benefited from volunteering with Mental Health Matters Wales for the past couple of years.

School raises £1,800 for cystic fibrosis fund

A HOSPITAL fund which supports children with cystic fibrosis in Bridgend and the surrounding area has received a cash boost from a local high school.

Students from Porthcawl Comprehensive School held a special fundraising week in aid of several local charities.

They raised £1,800 for the cystic fibrosis fund at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

The fund supports local children with the condition which affects their lungs and digestive system.

Patients need to exercise and take medication every day to manage symptoms such as breathing difficulties.

The money will be used for specialist equipment to help the young patients with their treatment.

Amanda Slade, paediatric respiratory nurse specialist, said: "Thank you very much to the pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive School. It is wonderful that they thought of us during their fundraising week, and we hope they all enjoyed the different activities.

"We were absolutely delighted to receive their donation.

"We will use the money to purchase nebulisers for our patients to use at home. They enable the children to breathe in their medication, which helps the airwaves to open more quickly and make breathing easier."

QUIZ LEAGUE TEASERS

THE League resumes next week. Here are your teasers:

1. Which American actress has received the most Oscar nominations ever in her career?

2. Who succeeded Clement Atlee as leader of the Labour Party in 1955?

3. Which former Lions' captain was Ireland coach from 1990-1992?

4. Which of Shakespeare's plays takes place in both Bohemia and Sicily?

A RUDGE (for Quiz League)

4. A Winter's Tale.
3. Clive Woodward.
2. Merry Wives of Windsor.
1. Merry Wives of Windsor.

Local company is aiming to get the best out of its female workforce!



ABOVE: Left to right – Rockwool Logistics director Ian Kellie, Rachel Morgan, Victoria Yandall, Sophie Hazell, Agile Nation project manager Hayley Dunne, Jane Watkins, Rockwool production director Bob Perry.

ONE of Bridgend's largest employers has stepped up its efforts to get more women into senior manufacturing jobs, by signing up for an innovative programme to help female production workers to climb the management ladder.

Staff at Pencoed-based insulation manufacturer Rockwool have benefited by enrolling on to 'Agile Nation Ascent', which is being run by the women's economic development body, Chwarae Teg, to boost confidence, unlock their management talents, and provide women with a recognised qualification.

Two have already been promoted and more job progression is in the pipeline.

The organisation called in Chwarae Teg to help them ensure more women in the business achieved their full career potential.

The organisation works with businesses on a number of levels, including enrolling female staff on 'Ascent', which provides recognised management training and follow-up mentoring.

Ten women from Rockwool have earned accredited Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) qualifications to help them climb the career ladder.

Rachel Morgan started at Rockwool in 2008 as a fork lift driver but since completing Ascent, has been promoted to team leader. She now works closely with her immediate line manager, the facto-

ry's process controller, and stands in for him when he is away, which means she is already gaining valuable experience to support her further career progression.

Rachel said: "The Ascent programme was very useful and I've had lots of follow-up support from Chwarae Teg.

"I feel the programme has helped me build confidence and I now understand more about the limits and skills of a team leader.

"When attending the programme sessions I also got to meet lots of women from different industries and it was great to share ideas on management techniques.

"My manager noticed my increased confidence and skills, and getting my promotion was the icing on the cake."

Bob Perry, production director at Rockwool, said: "Rockwool has a good history of tangible suc-

cess with regards to breaking down barriers. For example, the Bridgend factory had Rockwool group's first female factory manager in 1992.

"We had always had women in the offices or labs, but in 2007 we wanted to attract women into manufacturing, which is often seen as a man's environment, so we had a drive to recruit local women.

"Thank you to Chwarae Teg for their support and for providing the training opportunities for our female workforce."

Hayley Dunne, Agile Nation project manager, said: "I thank the managers at Rockwool for identifying individuals they believed had great potential.

"Congratulations to all the women who have undertaken the Ascent programme, and for proving your managers right."

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JANUARY 17)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

| DATE | Time | Ht | Time | Ht |
|---------|-------|------|-------|------|
| | AM | M | PM | M |
| 10 Thur | 04.44 | 9.3 | 17.06 | 9.4 |
| 11 Fri | 05.37 | 9.8 | 18.05 | 9.9 |
| 12 Sat | 06.29 | 10.3 | 18.55 | 10.2 |
| 13 Sun | 07.17 | 10.5 | 19.41 | 10.3 |
| 14 Mon | 08.02 | 10.6 | 20.22 | 10.2 |
| 15 Tues | 08.46 | 10.3 | 21.06 | 9.6 |
| 16 Wed | 09.25 | 9.8 | 21.44 | 9.4 |
| 17 Thur | 10.05 | 9.3 | 22.23 | 8.8 |

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Who wants to build what and where?

Mrs S Thompson – land at Pont Rhyd y Cyff, Llangynwyd, Bridgend – proposed new stable and store.

Mrs D Quinn – The Yard, Laleston Road, Cefn Cross, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend – certificate of lawfulness for an existing use of yard and shed for storage.

Bassett's (South Wales) Ltd – land at Dunraven Street, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend – construction of new car sales and associated servicing workshop.

Mrs C Beveridge – St Roberts Primary School, Danylan, Aberkenfig – freestanding cover to play area. Mr Andrew Skinner – 32 Coychurch Road, Bridgend – two storey three bed dwelling to rear gardens of 30-34

Coychurch Road with two car parking spaces and garden.

Ms L Evans – 50 Commercial Street, Kenfig Hill – proposed double garage.

T Rees Ltd – 24 John Street, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend – single storey rear extension.

Mrs Lewis – 14 Badgers Mead, Brackla, Bridgend – conservatory to rear.

Mr Nigel Walker – Clevisfield Cottage, Clevisfield Avenue, Porthcawl – single storey side extension.

Mrs Avril Gifford – Plot adjacent 22 Queen Street, Brynmynyn, Bridgend – outline application for one dwelling – re-submission of P/12/641/OUT.

Ms V White – 44 Graham Avenue, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend – proposed dormer extension

to front and rear, porch, conservatory and garage.

Valleys to Coast Housing Ltd – St David's Way, Porthcawl – four one bedroom apartments.

Ms L Ladbroke – The Old Bakery, 6 St Christopher's Court, Coity, Bridgend – demolish conservatory and erect single storey rear extension and dormer and two storey side extension.

Mr Ben Board – 133 Cowbridge Road, Bridgend – two storey side extension, extend single storey extension to double storey, alter existing outbuilding to create parking.

HD Limited – The Toll House, 1 Derwen Road, Bridgend – reinstatement of door and window to Derwen Road elevation.

Neath Port Talbot CBC – Mynydd Marchywel between Rhos and Cilfrew, Neath – OBS for five wind turbines with max blade tip height of 125.6m and associated works.

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Ramblers meet

BRIDGEND Ramblers invite people to shed the pounds in a convivial atmosphere (the open air!) on any Sunday morning – assemble at Bridgend Recreation Centre car park by about 9.20am.

See website www.bridgendramblers.co.uk for further details.

Claire, Gary and Diane's Family Link with local disabled youngsters

THREE local Family Link carers have been recognised for their dedication and commitment to disabled children and young people at the 2012 Understanding Disability Awards.

As shortlisted nominees, Claire and Gary Lewis of Maesteg, and Diane Rule of Cefn Glas were invited to attend the awards ceremony which celebrates active engagement and commitment to promoting positive attitudes towards people with learning disabilities.

They were each presented with certificates for their involvement with disabled children and for providing a number of placements for children/young people of varying ages and disabilities.

Claire and Gary have been carers with Bridgend County Borough Council for the last 14 years, Diane for 13 years. All were recognised for the opportunities they provide children and young people including encouraging independence by increasing their skills and knowledge, promoting community involvement and development through play and social outings.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "Family Link carers provide an invaluable service to the disabled children, young people and their families. They help them to develop, teach new skills, give them confidence and encourage interaction with their peers."

"These carers create opportunities so the dis-



ABOVE: Diane Rule.

abled children can take part in a range of activities within the community; something many of us probably take for granted.

"Between them, these carers continue to raise awareness of disability issues and the Family Link scheme within the wider community. They all deserve the recognition and we are extremely proud that they were shortlisted."

Gary and his wife Claire provide placements for two young boys, Gary said: "We provide the placements in our spare time, as Claire is in full time employment, and I'm a full time carer for my mum. We wouldn't change it – being Family Link carers has truly enhanced our lives."

"If you could spare a couple of hours a week or even an overnight stay, I would definitely recommend you contact the Family Link team and help give these children and their families a well-deserved break."

For further information on Family Link, contact (01656) 815442.



ABOVE: Claire and Gary Lewis, with Ruth Wignall (centre).



ABOVE: Mike Meredith.



Headteacher Martin Griffiths presents the shield to Teyah Jones.

Primary school names award in memory of an ex-governor

A FORMER governor, Mike Meredith, who died last year, was remembered recently at Tynyrheol Primary School in the Garw Valley, when a new award

was presented in his honour.

Mike lived in Cowbridge but was a governor of Tynyrheol for many years – he was chair of governors when he died – and had been passionate about supporting the efforts of the staff.

The headteacher, Martin Griffiths, contacted Mike's widow, Leo, and asked if the school could give an annual prize in his memory.

Mrs Leo Meredith told THE GEM: "Michael loved to write, and so I suggested that the award should be associated with that."

The school decided on an award for creative writing and, just before the school broke up for Christmas, Leo and Mike's son, Giles, visited the school for the first presentation of the Mike Meredith Memorial Shield – won by Teyah Jones.

Leo Meredith said: "It was the first time Giles had visited the school, and he could see why Michael was so passionate about it."

"I can remember taking Michael to Cardiff when he was raising funds to get the school more computers. Michael spent days in the Library researching bodies that he could apply to for funding."

"Giles and I plan to continue our association with the school. Michael and I used to

bring things to sell at the school fair, and I will be going back to do so again."

Mr Martin Griffiths said: "Teyah Jones was the first winner of the Mike Meredith Memorial Shield, which is given to a pupil for high standards in creative writing at our school. Leo and Giles Meredith attended the assembly."

"The assembly was followed by refreshments and a tour of the school, highlighting the very good standards of work in all the classes."

Mr Griffiths added: "Mr Meredith will be missed by all at Tynyrheol Primary school."

"He was a governor at our school for over 15 years and had been chair of governors for seven."

"During that time, he has made a huge contribution to our school and has been a great support to me and all the staff and pupils."

"He was also responsible for fund raising when we first had our computer suite and helped in so many ways to make Tynyrheol the school it is today."

Leo Meredith added: "Mr Griffiths was keen to make this first award in 2012 – the year Michael died – and so it was held very late in the year."

"In future years it will probably be awarded in the summer."

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Cracker Show

UNDOUBTEDLY, the 'Christmas Cracker Show' held at the Labour Club in Kenfig Hill, was one of the best and most original introductions to Christmas.

Produced and directed by Linda Knight, the sell-out show was a production of high quality which exuded the true spirit and fun of Christmas, with items ranging from the traditional, through to the high energy finale, which saw the whole audience on their feet singing and dancing along with the cast.

A never-to-be-forgotten sight was the grace and elegance of the Ballerinas, along with the Snowman in the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, or the dapper footwork and the contortions of the Elves, who had probably had too many Brussels sprouts, stylishly performed by Clive (Boots) Williams, Steffan (the Tap) Jones, Enid Smith and Michelle Knight.

Equally, who would forget the Labourette Trio (Angela Taylor,



COMMUNITY NEWS from **KENFIG HILL AND PYLE** by **Richard Sims**

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Rhian Baker and Carole Stanton) along with the Tappette Dancers (Anne Beatty, Liz Williams, Barbara Hancock, Jayne Greenslade, Andrea Jenkins and Linda Will) who provided their own Country & Western feel to Rocking around the Christmas tree?

At the same time Colin (the Gobbler) Chapman was truly worried about his own mortality at being a turkey just before Christmas.

An unexpected treat was the appearance of the 'Welsh Wurzels' performing a festive Morris Dance, together with a rousing rendition of Winter Wonderland. The entertainment continued with Anne Beatty singing a certain cheeky version of a song relating to an ageing fairy and 50 Shades of Grey, while poor Linda Will was more concerned about the lack of her two front teeth!

However, on a more serious note, Andrea Jenkins provided a traditional focused singing the beautiful carol, 'Silent Night' and Sian David serenaded the audience with that most popular of Christmas songs, 'White Christmas'.

Santa (Neil Knight) played his part throughout, although whether he enjoyed the rendition of Santa Baby, or not, is another matter, however, his wife Linda certainly did when a more handsome, younger version of Santa appeared at the end as the answer to all her Christmas wishes!

The primary aim of the show was to raise money for charity and as a result a cheque for a magnificent £1,400 plus was presented to Breast Cancer Care.

Linda and her team would like to pass their thanks to the staff, committee and members of Kenfig Hill Labour Club, and their gratitude to sponsors Mrs Rita Jones, David Phillips, Billy Corrigan, Barry Edwards, Mrs Linda Will, David Brace, cast members for providing their own costumes, the two seamstresses (Debra John and Linda Williams) and all those who helped with sound (notably Wayne Kinsey and Sarah Tilley); make-up ticket sales, raffle tickets and every-one else involved in putting on the production.

Finally, the show went 'on tour' for one night only to Cwrt

Anghorfa Sheltered Housing Complex in Pyle, who generously contributed to their overall total.

Kenfig Society

ON Tuesday, January 15, Dean Powell will be giving a talk on 'Dr William Price the Eccentric' at 7pm in Pyle Life Centre.

For more information about the Kenfig Society and details regarding future talks, ring Terry Robbins on 01656 782351.

Wellbeing Centre

ACTIVITIES being held by the Mental Health Matters, Wales, at the Talbot Community, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill on Wednesday, January 16 include arts and crafts with Valley & Vale from 2pm to 4pm and the Reading Group from 3pm to 4pm.

There will also be a social afternoon.

Film club

THE next meeting of the film club will be held in St James' Church Hall, Pyle, on Tuesday, January 15 at 2pm.

Members of the whist club meet on a Wednesday evening at 7pm.

They are a friendly group, who enjoy a pleasant game of whist.

There will be a concert by 'Sounds Familiar' in the Parish Hall, Pyle, on Friday, January 18 at 7pm.

There will be refreshments during the interval and tickets cost £5.

Free microchip for local dogs

LOCAL dog owners are being invited to take advantage of a special offer from Dogs Trust to get their dog microchipped for free at Dogs Trust Bridgend Rehoming Centre, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend on Monday, January 14, between 11am and 3.30pm.

The Rehoming Centre hopes to microchip as many dogs as possible to help tackle the stray dog issue in Wales.

Dogs Trust campaign manager for Wales, Sian Edwards, said: "We would like to urge dog owners to take advantage of this limited microchipping offer."

"We have seen an increase in the number of stray dogs in Wales this year, from 9,482 in 2011 to 10,230 in 2012, which shows the problem of stray dogs in the country is as prevalent as ever."

"If your dog does get lost, a microchip can enable him to be traced

and reunited with you."

"While at Dogs Trust we never put a healthy dog to sleep, our rehoming centres are very stretched so we constantly need to reach out to dog owners to help them get their dogs microchipped and neutered – to help prevent the scores of stray and unwanted dogs we take in every year."

"To take part, there is no need to book and the offer is regardless of the owners' benefit status, so just bring your dog along to the event at Dogs Trust Bridgend Rehoming Centre, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, CF31 4NG."

Dogs Trust is the UK's largest dog welfare charity and cares for over 16,000 stray and abandoned dogs each year through its network of 18 rehoming centres nationwide.

For more information about the charity's work please go to www.dogstrust.org.uk.

Hayley's quiz

GEM contributor, Hayley Williams, who writes a regular 'Spooky Tales' column, is presenting Hayley's Charity Quick-Fire Quiz, in aid of Velindre cancer hospital, each Sunday at 5.30pm in the Swan Inn, at Nottage, Porthcawl.

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More faces from Porthcawl's Christmas extravaganza as swimmers take a dive!

SO many people (around 900) took to the water on Christmas morning in Porthcawl that there is little chance of seeing the same old faces, so we are delighted to publish some more!

Once again, The GEM is proud to have published many, many more photographs of the popular swim than any other newspaper!

See if you recognise anyone and then turn to page 28 for even more pictures!

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE
AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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NEWS ROUND-UP - IN AND OUT OF CLASS FROM PENCOED COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Friends of Pencoed Comprehensive TO THE RESCUE!

STAFF and pupils at Pencoed Comprehensive are very grateful to the school Friends (FoPCS) for their hard work in applying for grant funding towards the fencing of the school playing fields.

A total of £13,000 was awarded – £12,000 from the reach Rural Grant Scheme and £1,000 from Pencoed Town Council.

In addition to the creation of a healthier and safer environment for users of the existing pitches, another major outcome of the fencing will be the development next year of an additional pitch for the mini and junior sections of Pencoed Rugby Club and Pencoed Boys and Girls Football Club, as well as by school pupils.

FoPCS also recently donated £2,500 towards the purchase of a new mini bus for the school.

Craig Roderick memorial

PUPILS from the school, accompanied by the head and some of the staff, recently planted some trees on the school grounds in memory of Craig Roderick, a former pupil.

Craig, who served with the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, was killed while serving in Afghanistan.

The trees were donated by the Martin family, in celebration of Craig's life, as part of the South Wales Jubilee Woods Appeal.

'Sense of Place' UK competition

AS part of its summer programme of events, Pencoed Comprehensive School ran a geography and art collaboration workshop, where year-7 pupils were given the opportunity to photograph their school environment – to capture their 'sense of place' within school.

Nine photographs were chosen to enter the Colliers Green competition, which showcases photographs from many schools around Wales and England.

The competition is tough as the entries reach a very high standard.

However, in October, we were notified that three of our pupils were finalists; Gabrielle David, Josh East and Liam Sheard.

They were invited to London for a tour of the Museum of London, a buffet and awards ceremony.

Geography teacher Sharon Davies and head of art Helen Williams accompanied the pupils and an enjoyable day was had by all. The day was made even more special as one of the pupils, Gabrielle David was awarded runner-up and received a Canon Power Shot camera worth £190.

We are very proud of all three finalists, an example of the talent developed by the school.

Tree festival

THANK you to pupils from class GCB for all their efforts in decorating a tree that was entered into the Noltun Church Christmas tree festival in Bridgend.

The competition was judged by Madeleine Moon MP, who took her time to appreciate each tree and left a really encouraging note.

The tree was decorated with handmade, paper decorations including baubles written with messages from each pupil, beautiful, tall candles with colourful flames, paper chain people spreading the school values and to top it off, a beautifully made star by Josephine Davies of year-7, with a wonderful Christmas wish. The tree was then transferred to the school reception.

Fundraising Extravaganza!

THIS year's Christmas fair, organised by year-12 pupils as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate qualification, proved to be the most suc-

cessful fundraising event ever held in the school.

A total of nearly £2,200 was raised in aid of 'Dylan's Dream', a charity set up to help Dylan Morgan, a pupil at Pencoed Primary School to achieve his very special wishes.

Pupils from 7-1 and 8-1 raised over £85 for Dylan's Dreams by organising a coffee morning, raffle and selling wrist bands.

Pupils in Class LHR raised over £30 for Dylan's Dreams by holding a 'Cake Break'.

Pupils also raised £740.24, during the space of one lunchtime, towards Children in Need. Staff, with the aid of some of our sixth formers, raised £193.46 towards Macmillan Cancer Support at its annual coffee morning. The home-made cakes were particularly appreciated by everyone!

The English department continued with their annual Readathon for year-7 pupils. Over the last five years, they've collected more than £1,500 for the Roald Dahl Foundation.

The sixth form Interact group also raised over £300 recently for charity.

Pupils' voice!

THE following pupils were recently elected by their peers to act as their representatives on the School Council.

It has an important role to play in school life – ranging from involvement in staff interviews to consultation on different aspects of school life. Congratulations to you all!

Year-13 – Zak Rossaye and Abigail Richards (head boy and head girl).

Year-12 – Tom Hiscocks and Megan Maunders (pupil governors).

Year-11 – Jack Kaczanowski and Rhian Bateman.

Year-10 – Aaron Leyshon and Megan Fry.

Year-9 – Liam Hiatt and Grace Shaughnessy.

Year-8 – Ellis Brown and Jenna Dyckhoff.

Year-7 – Josh Midlane and Rosie Pope.

MLD Resource Base – Jessica Phillips and Matthew Mc Phillips.

Festive concert

THANK you very much to Mrs Rhian Jenkins, Mrs Kay Smith and all the pupils who took part in the Christmas concert held at Salem Chapel on December 18.

The audience enjoyed a variety of items, all performed with great enthusiasm by the pupils.

Pupils also laid on a special concert in the afternoon for the school's Senior Citizens Club and the Llanharan OAP Club. The concert reminded us all of the special meaning of Christmas.

We're grateful to Salem Chapel for allowing us the use of the chapel for the concert and the rehearsals.

Thank you to everyone for their kind donations towards FoPCS in their fund raising collection towards school activities.

Welcoming hosts

PRIOR to the Christmas lunchtime concert, OAPs and other guests enjoyed a wonderful lunch laid on by the school's canteen staff; pupils and staff also thoroughly enjoyed the meal.

A number of sixth form boys volunteered to help the kitchen staff and proved to be excellent ambassadors for the school. Some also assisted Ruth Jones, our site manager, David George, headteacher, and Amanda Randall, higher level teaching assistant, in leading the communal carol singing in the canteen.

Senior citizens' lunches will resume on Tuesday, January 8 – please feel welcome to join us at 12 noon every Tuesday and Thursday during the school term.

At the end of November, the school hosted the Bridgend Youth Speaks competition, organised by the Rotary Club. Three of the pupils, Carrie Gwyther, Megan Maunders and Tomos Owen performed well in the competition.



ABOVE: Planting trees in memory of former pupil Craig Roderick.



The kitchen staff provided a Christmas lunch for local senior citizens.

Thank you very much to Danielle Smith of the English department for working with the pupils on their debating skills.

Also during November, departments put on an excellent display in the sports hall of what their subjects had to offer pupils at A and AS level.

The weather that evening was particularly bad, so everyone was really pleased at the high level of attendance and the interest shown.

Thanks to staff and current sixth form pupils for attending and ensuring that year-11 pupils were given an accurate idea of what courses could benefit them in their future careers.

The school also hosted visits by Kate Williams (poet) who met years 7 and 8 pupils and also Alastair Reynolds (science fiction author) who met year-11 pupils.

Mr Reynolds was the guest speaker at our prize evening in March.

Staff and pupils also enjoyed welcoming year-6 pupils and their parents to the open evening in October.

This annual event provides visitors with guided tours of the school to visit specific departments and enjoy demonstrations of what each subject has to offer, particularly in year-7.

Sporting accolades
CONGRATULATIONS to all those pupils who represented Pencoed Comprehensive School in rugby (league and union), football, hockey and netball this term.

The school is very grateful to the staff in the PE department and the pupils who give up their time for practice sessions, as well as the matches.

Winter Sports Day was held on December 14, and although they had to be held indoors due to the bad weather, all competitors were as enthusiastic as ever! Congratulations to the joint winners, Gwennllian and Lllywellyn Houses.

Congratulations also to those pupils excelling out of school. For example, Isabelle Bushrod in year-9, was one of the youngest competitors to take part in the British Open Kayak event in the Lee valley recently.

Emily Smith in year-10 represented Wales in the Tri-Nations Water Polo Championship. Having played against Scotland and Ireland, Emily received two Welsh junior water polo caps.

Harry Lock in year-11 represented Wales in a 'cyclo-cross' event in Milton Keynes in November 2012. Harry was 33rd out of 100. Harry is a member of the Welsh Cycling Development squad through to Commonwealth Games of 2018.

GOOD NEWS!

The headteacher, governors, and staff were particularly pleased with the recent news that Pencoed Comprehensive School had now risen to Band 3 within the Welsh Government's banding scheme for secondary schools.

This follows on from the wonderful set of results in the summer, when the school celebrated the best GCSE results ever, as well as improved attendance levels.

Mr David George, headteacher, is grateful to staff, pupils, and parents for their continued dedication and support.



Gabrielle David won a Canon Power Shot camera in a national competition.



David Brace awarded OBE

MAESTEG-BORN David Brace, chairman of Dunraven Windows, has been made an OBE for his services to business and to charities in the Bridgend area.

Last year, David, a member of the Llangeinor Hunt, was awarded the Point-to-Point Racing Company Jim Mahon Industry Award, which is point-to-pointing's highest award and which was created to recognise those people who have made an outstanding contribution to point-to-point racing or hunter chasing over the years.

David, owner of the Dunraven Stud Farm at Pyle, near Bridgend, has acknowledged the fact that without the support he has received from his wife Dawn and sons Matthew and Andrew, he would have not been able to pursue his horse racing activities.

He has owned and trained many winners over the years at racecourses up and down the country and these include winners at Aintree and Cheltenham.

A great point-to-point enthusiast, his Silver Token and Bringtonhebranstun were both successful at the Harkaway Point-to-Point Steeplechases at Chaddesley Corbett. However, this was one occasion David missed seeing them win as he was celebrating his OBE with family and friends at home.

A former coal miner, he says that his father Evan, whom he worked alongside at St John's Colliery in Maesteg, has been the biggest influence on his life.

BRIAN LEE

Porthcawl RNLI to the rescue in West Country flood drama



ABOVE:
Martin Blakerrowe, Paul Eastment and Christopher Missen return to the site of the river rescue.

TWO Porthcawl RNLI volunteers saved a woman's life – after dashing to the West Country to help when the area was hit by severe flooding.

On December 22, the two members of the Porthcawl RNLI Lifeboat crew, were mobilised to Barnstable, to assist the Fire Service during major flooding in the Devon and Cornwall area.

They were immediately called on to rescue a woman who was hanging on for her life in a swollen river at Umberleigh near Barnstable.

The men from Porthcawl were 46-year-old team leader Paul Eastment, and 25-year-old helmsman Chris Missen, who were joined by Martin Blakerrowe from Poole.

Both Paul and Chris have previous experience in flood rescue, and were involved in the rescue of people during the Aberystwyth and

Cockermouth floods.

When they arrived in Barnstable Fire Station in the early hours of Sunday morning, they were immediately deployed to reports of a man and child on a car roof, with a woman washed off the roof of a car – with her position unknown.

Porthcawl RNLI spokesman Carl Evans said: "When they arrived at the scene, they were met with a fast-flowing swollen river which had broken its banks, and started flooding adjacent fields and roadways.

"The man and child had been rescued, and the woman's location had been identified by a police helicopter.

"As team leader, Paul made the decision to launch immediately from the roadway, through a gate leading to the river where the woman was hanging on for her life."

Paul said "It was very dark in the area, with no street lights. I could hear the lady screaming from the river, and I made the decision to launch, as I knew my crew were

capable of saving her, due to the specialist flood rescue training they have received."

Helmsman Chris Missen said: "This was the most difficult rescue I have ever had to perform. In a swollen, fast-flowing river in flood, it is difficult to steer and control the boat the way you want, as the power of the water wants to take you straight downstream.

"I had to control the boat by steering it backwards down the river, until I reached the lady, then steer sideways into the trees to rescue her.

"When we pulled her into the boat, she was very cold, and we took her quickly to the river bank.

"I believe that if we had not rescued her when we did, she would have soon got hypothermia and lost her grip on the branch, as she had been in the river for around 50 minutes."

Mr John Abrahams, the chairman of Porthcawl RNLI Lifeboat Station said: "We are all very proud of what Paul and Christopher did last weekend.

"Not only do they give up their time volunteering to be part of the RNLI crew saving people at sea, but they are also on call 24/7 as part of the RNLI Flood Rescue Team, saving people from major flooding in the UK.

"The rescue they carried out was definitely the most heroic deed I have heard of – well above the call of duty."

Jewellery stolen in Boxing Day burglary

POLICE are investigating a house burglary at Heol Felin Fach, Tondur, between 6pm and 10.45pm on Boxing Day, when a large quantity of jewellery was stolen.

Among the property taken was a burgundy hexagonal shaped jewellery box with each panel in a silver pattern surrounded by paisley patterned fabric.

The interior of the box was covered in burgundy-coloured velvet with a mirror inside the lid.

As well as a quantity of costume jewellery, the box also contained some more distinctive items, including:

An inscribed rectangular pendant; silver rope chain; two Celtic style chains and two plain chains, one of which featured a love-spoon, a thin gold chain with a letter 'C' on it; a 21st Key pendant and an 18th Key pendant; a Celtic Claddagh silver necklace with stone and a Claddagh heart ring, a thin band with a Celtic design, a Celtic white gold ring and other gold and silver jewellery.

Police are appealing to anyone who may have seen anything suspicious in the area, or may have been offered jewellery for sale since the evening of Boxing Day, to contact them.

Telephone Detective Constable Rebecca Merchant at Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, or 101; or contact Crimestoppers, free and anonymously, on 0800 555111.

Police appeal after burglary in Ogmere Vale

POLICE in Bridgend are investigating a burglary which took place at a house on Commercial Street, Ogmere Vale between 5.10pm and 6pm on Boxing Day.

Police say access was gained to the terrace house via the front door and the culprit took a pink and brown coloured Roxy rucksack before making off.

The bag contained a number of items, including an Apple i-pod, a leopard-print purse with more than £100, three DVDs – Ted, Snow White and The Five Year Engagement and a grey and white 'Onesie'.

Detective Constable Michael Maund of Bridgend CID reported:

"This incident took place in the early evening of Boxing Day on Commercial Street in Ogmere Vale.

"We are appealing for anyone who may have seen anything suspicious in the area, or saw anyone carrying a pink and brown coloured Roxy rucksack in the area at the time, to contact the police."

Anyone with information can contact DC Maund at Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Did you know you can read your GEM online? bridgend-today.co.uk

'MYSTERY HELPER' COMFORTS DRIVER CUT FROM CAR

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

A MOTORIST who was suspended in mid-air when his car flipped onto its side in Colcot Road, Barry, has thanked the 'Good Samaritan' who talked him through the agonising moments while he waited for the emergency services to arrive and cut him free.

The drama unfolded on December 18, when Mr Michael Johnson set off from home in his Renault Clio for an appointment at the University Hospital of Wales – and ended with him suspended in mid-air by his seat belt.

Mr Johnson (73) said: "I left home at 9.45am and the incident must have taken place at about 9.55am as I was going past Barry College.

"I ended up with the car on its left hand side and me hanging in mid-air held in by my seat belt!"

Mr Johnson can't remember what caused the accident – he sustained a bang to the head – but no other vehicle was involved, and the police are taking no action after witnesses confirmed there was no problem with the way the car was being driven.

"I'd hit my head and couldn't move my leg which was trapped.

"I then heard a man say: 'I can't take you out until the medics arrive'.

"He asked me what my name was and I said 'Mike'. He said: 'Okay, Mike we can't get you out straightaway, but I will stay with you until the emergency services arrive'.

"I was talking to him with my eyes closed and didn't see him, although he sounded young.

"His level of care and concern was of great comfort at a difficult time.

"He kept talking to me and was very reassuring – a true Good Samaritan."

Mr Johnson's wife Jeanette, who was unwell that day and back at home, said that in retrospect the couple think the incident could have been far worse.

"I felt he was lucky the car didn't go up in flames."

Mr Johnson said: "I'd only filled up with £55 worth of petrol the

previous day and don't know much about combustion, but that thought did occur to me!

"The Fire Services cut me out and I didn't suffer any pain apart from some pressure on my leg."

HOSPITAL DASH
Mr Johnson was then rushed into the University Hospital of Wales for an entirely different purpose from the one he set out for.

"I want to thank the Fire Service and the hospital staff at the Heath – everyone was great."

Meanwhile, an anxious Mrs Johnson was opening the door to a police officer.

"For a moment it frightened me to death. Actually, the policeman was lovely and said Mike had been in an accident but was alright."

"I phoned my daughter-in-law Tracey who was shopping in Barry and we went straight to the hospital.

"He'd bitten his tongue and there was lots of blood. The hospital staff had to cut away my husband's clothes and take x-rays."

IDENTITY

Mr Johnson was shaken, had suffered concussion and an injury to his foot. In all other respects, he was unscathed. He was discharged late that evening.

Mrs Johnson was amazed that his glasses remained undamaged during the whole episode.

Mr Johnson is now recuperating in his house at The Knap with its inspiring views across the Bristol Channel to the Somerset coast.

A former sales manager in the record industry, he is well known in Barry as the former owner of 'Records & Tapes' which traded in King Square from 1973 to 1987.

People still stop him to have a nostalgic chat about their visits to the shop.

Christmas was understandably low key for the couple, but Mr Johnson feels that bit by bit he is recovering.

"I feel a little better each day, but my lucidity is a bit in question."

Mr and Mrs Johnson don't know the identity of the mystery helper that day, but they want him to know that his act of kindness meant the world to them.

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Tidy effort!

IN 2012, the Ynysawdre Environmental Group, which has been working on behalf of the community, completed its sixth successful cleaning project.

The projects have been undertaken by volunteers including members from Ynysawdre elderly residents' association, Ynysawdre Community Council and Garw Valley Angling Club, with the clean-up operations supervised by Brian Jones of Keep Wales Tidy.

The six completed projects were identified by residents of the Ynysawdre community, and they took place at target points across Ynysawdre.

Three new projects are already planned for 2013: the first is pathway No 2 alongside the Llynfi river and opposite Tondy Cricket Club; and the clean-up will take place on Sunday, January 13, starting at 10am and finishing at 12noon.

The group will meet near the cricket club and anyone interested in keeping the environment tidy will be welcome. All necessary equipment will be provided by Keep Wales Tidy.

Elderly census

I HAVE been provided with a copy of the action plan which has been produced from a census of 100 residents aged 50 and over in Ynysawdre, commissioned by the organisation Reach.

The action plan highlights the residents' concerns.

Among the priorities listed are:

1 People in the area are proud of where they live, the priority is to preserve and enhance that sense of pride.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



2 It was felt that sections of Ynysawdre are poorly maintained and litter was a major problem, so keeping the area clean and tidy is a priority.

3 Ensure roads and paths are safe and accessible in Ynysawdre.

4 Highlight the need for improved direct public transport services which actually goes to areas considered essential by the residents.

These include the Princess of Wales hospital.

5 The need to identify and reduce problems in the community, among which is general antisocial behaviour.

Carers' centre

BRIDGEND Carer's Centre is based at 87, Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ (tel 01656 658479).

On January 14, 21 and 28 there will be the book Cwtch between 1pm and 2pm.

On January 16, between 12.30pm and 3.30pm, a support worker from the REVIVE charity, dedicated to helping those affected by multiple sclerosis, will be available to advise carers in the community café.

On January 17 (10am to 1pm) the outreach group will be at Maesteg Civic Offices with a representative of the Citizens' Advice Bureau to assist carers.

At the centre on January 17, the staff,

plus representatives from Bridgend County Borough Council, will be holding an information course for new carers between 10.30am and 12.30pm. For more information phone the centre.

Friday, January 18, sees a coach tour to Llancaich Fawr Manor, where everyone will be greeted by servants, share folklore and customs during the civil war. The coach leaves at 9am from Hope chapel; to book a place a place phone Paula.

Four choirs

I WAS pleased to be invited to the Richard Price Centre for Llangeinor's seventh annual Christmas celebrations.

This is a marvellous community event and Bill and Jayne Jones, of the Calfaria charity, are to be congratulated on the effort they put into the event.

The compère for the evening was Rev James Brown, who with the assistance of his wife Anne, ensured the evening was a success.

Among the guests was the First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones, and Janice Gregory AM.

Four choirs provided support: the Garw Valley Ladies, Cŵr Meibion Cwm Garw, Cantorian Calfaria, and Tynyrheol Primary School Choir.

The celebrations started with everyone singing 'Hark the herald angels sing' followed by the Garw ladies choir with its wonderful rendition of the Bette Midler hit 'The Rose' and 'Thank you for the music'.

Then on stage came the audience's favourite, the Tynyrheol Primary School Choir, with 'It's a magical time' and 'I love those J.I.N.G.L.E. bells'.

The audience joined in singing 'Away in a manger', this time followed by Cŵr Meibion Cwm Garw with 'Rachie', 'Bring him home' and the foot-stomping 'When the saints go marching in' - followed by Calfaria Singers with 'Still was the night'.

There were also readings by various members of the audience.

Unfortunately, the evening finished on a sombre note when Rev James Brown disclosed that Community First no longer used the building, and therefore the finance to help keep the centre functional had ceased.

He expressed his concern as a member of the community, about the future of the centre if no

funds were forthcoming.

Trust concert
ST JOHN'S TRUST, based on Newcastle Hill, has organised a fundraising concert in the Sony Theatre, Bridgend College, on February 1 at 7pm.

The renowned Bridgend Male Choir will be performing on stage, alongside the Vocelle Ladies Choir and Oldcastle Primary School Choir.

Mila concert

On Thursday, January 17, at 7pm in St Bride's Church,

Llansantffraid, there will be a fundraising concert in aid of a local charity, Grace's Gift, set up to assist families who have lost a child, organised by Sammie Lambert-Worgan in memory of her child Mila.

The concert will consist of a collection of the most talented soloists in the area, who will be singing well-known and loved songs.

Tickets are £5 and can be obtained from Sammie on 07805 262006. Donations of raffle prizes also welcomed.

Carol service

EVEN though it was atrocious weather, the Llangeinor Hunt carol service, held in St Tyfodwg's Church, attracted a congregation of over 70, and raised £212.80 for the hunt's chosen charity Dylan's dream appeal.

Food bank

BETWS Food Bank members would like to thank the public for the donations of food and money, which last year ensured receipt of 589 kilos of food - distributed to 39 families in the area.

Welsh young singer of the year

THE competition, sponsored by Dunraven Windows, will take place in Maesteg Town Hall on Saturday, January 19, at 7pm.

Appearing in the category of competitors aged 15 to 18, will be Megan Eleri Griffiths, Rhydian Jenkins and Rebecca May.

In the category for competitors aged 19 to 26, there will be Joy Cornock, Charlotte Skidmore, Jessica Robinson and Trystan Llyr Griffiths.

Local theatre arts students selected for top production

FOUR local singers and dancers will soon be meeting Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber at a mammoth production of one of his best-known shows.

Stagecoach Theatre Arts is 25 this year, and to celebrate, the musical *Cats* will be staged at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham.

The event will involve 4,000 students performing to an audience of 12,000.

Stagecoach Bridgend and Cowbridge competed with every Stagecoach school - and there are more than 680 in the UK - to be selected to perform. Auditions also took place for main character parts, with hundreds competing for these

roles.

Four local students, Verity-Belle Atkinson (16), Matt Bartlett (16), Andrew McQueen (18) and Siwan Wyn Henderson (17) beat off tough competition to be cast in main roles!

This means that they will also meet Andrew Lloyd Webber, who is working closely with the production team.

A Stagecoach spokeswoman said: "The 25th anniversary promises to be a spectacular event, with high profile coverage and celebrity support."

"Stagecoach has gone from strength to strength over the last 25 years, providing a great performing arts education for children and young people."



Andrew McQueen and Siwan Wyn Henderson, who will be taking major roles in a production of *Cats*.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(01656) 880418

GREENLINKS community bus service is running a return bus service every Monday, including bank holidays, from Llantwit Major via St Brides Major (straight through) to Tesco (Cowbridge Road), Bridgend town centre, and Princess of Wales Hospital.

Timetables and further information are available in the local post office.

FOLLOWING numerous requests, the St Brides produce market will be expanding from February to include a few tables for bric-a-brac and home-made crafts.

For more details, call into the library in the church hall either on Wednesday afternoons or Saturday mornings.

The market takes place on the second Saturday of each month from 10am-12 noon. **OGMORE-BY-SEA Retired Residents Association** will commence their new year session with a bar lunch at the Watermill, Ogmere village, on Thursday, January 17. New members are welcome.

NEW year birthday greetings to 'young at heart' members of the Saturday Tea and Chat Club in the church hall - Joan 93, Lilian 90 and Joe 88. Congratulations and a happy new year to everyone.

Local couple's plan could help patients retain their dignity

A PENCOED man has put together an easy-to-learn system that helps vulnerable patients to communicate in hospital.

Derek Tune believes it could make a huge difference to patients who have suffered a stroke and cannot speak. It could also help post-operative patients who have similar difficulties.

Together with his wife, Jan Welland, a former nurse, he has devised a simplified sign language, using one hand instead of two.

The 'singlehanded sign language' is essential for stroke patients, who often lose the use of one arm (hopefully a temporary condition).

The simplified system also has the advantage of making it easier to learn.

The system is the culmination of a 20-year interest in sign language, and it dates back to a serious road accident that Derek suffered

20 years ago.

He told The GEM: "At the time, I was a lorry driver, and I was in a serious accident near Kidderminster. The lorry was knocked into a wall, and I went through the windscreen and was thrown into a river below."

The wall broke under the impact, and some of stones hit Derek as he lay in the river.

He sustained severe injuries to his skull and to his ribs, but he was rescued by two passers-by. One was a police officer (the local police station was nearby) and the other was a deaf man.

There is no doubt that the two rescuers saved Derek's life, and he had plenty of time to think about them, as he faced a long period in hospital after the accident.

Although it was possible to get in touch with the police officer to say thanks, he had no way of contacting the deaf man.

Derek said: "This preyed on my mind and, when I was well enough to do some voluntary

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

work, I signed up with the Bridgend Deaf Club to learn sign language and help out."

This proved to be very satisfying work, and Derek has stayed working with the deaf community ever since. He learned sign language well enough to be called in as an official translator when various authorities need such services.

It was in 2007 that something else happened.

Jan Welland explained: "My mother was dying of terminal cancer, and in the later stages she was so weak that it was very distressing."

"She found it difficult to talk and, consequently, it used to take her so much time and effort to make herself understood – even if it was only a simple request"

At around the same time, Jan's 99-year-old grandmother was also in hospital and suffered similar problems.

Jan said: "Derek and I

started to talk about whether a simple sign language could give vulnerable patients their dignity and respect back.

"It had to be simple – something that could be learnt in an hour or so – and should concentrate on simple requests, such as asking for food, saying that they felt cold or hot, or that they needed a doctor or nurse."

Derek said: "To keep it simple, I decided that the signs should be single handed, and that way they would be especially suitable for stroke patients."

The couple have spent the last few years testing and refining the idea, and they feel that their system, based around 54 cards, will have a wide range of applications in hospitals and nursing homes.

In cases when doctors know that post-operatively, the patient will find it difficult to talk, the patient can spend time before the operation getting used to the sign



ABOVE:

Jan Welland and Derek Tune.

language. Clearly, when a patient suffers, for instance, a stroke, they can start learning the sign language as part of their recovery process.

The system is now ready to be marketed, and the work has been done in their home, which is in Cowbridge.

All three of Jan's daughters went to Ysgol Iolo Morganwg and then Cowbridge Comprehensive.

Jan's eldest, Sara, is a teacher at Pendoylan school, the middle one, Iona, is a staff nurse on a stroke unit, and the youngest, Rowena is a doctor in the Royal Glamorgan Hospital.

Derek, who is a widower, has two children –

Christopher, who is studying criminology at Bristol University, and Alexandra, who is doing A-Levels at Cowbridge Comprehensive.

Jan said: "I still remember how difficult it was for my mother to get across even the simplest messages, and the point about this sign language is that it is very simple."

"We feel that now we need to contact the various groups who could find this useful."

An information set enabling someone to learn the single handed sign language costs £15, and further information can be obtained from www.singlehandedcommunication.co.uk

Laura's short (story) cut to writing career

ADULT learner Laura Foakes is celebrating success in a regional literary competition.

She triumphed over more than 100 unpublished authors to win first prize at the South Wales Short Story Competition, sponsored by Cardiff-based Candy Books, with her entry, *The Countess and the Mole Man*.

Laura currently attends two community learning writing courses in Bridgend and credits her tutor, Stephen

Jenkins with inspiring and encouraging her to enter the competition.

Taking inspiration from overheard conversations, newspaper

headlines and friends, families and strangers, Laura's story is a "black comedy" intended to destigmatise mental health issues. It is a sequel to a previous piece of her work.

Laura has been writing for her own amusement since the age of seven, but began to take it more seriously two years ago.

She is now hoping to build on her success and is working on a children's novel.

She also intends to

sign up for the 'Writing to Self' community learning course in Bridgend in January to further improve her talents.

Coun Lyn Morgan, Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet member for wellbeing, said:

"People might not associate the Community Learning in Bridgend partnership with the council, but adult learning is an important service that we help to provide so people like Laura can reach their potential."

"I would like to congratulate Laura for her success in the competition and wish her good luck with completing her novel."

The Countess and the Mole Man is being published as part of an anthology of the best competition entries, in both paperback and eBook formats.

To find out more about the anthology, or for more information about the competition, visit www.candyjar.co.uk.

To find out more about community learning in Bridgend courses, visit www.bridgend.gov.uk/adultlearning.

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TV STAR OWEN IS SET TO UNVEIL KENFIG MEMORIAL

'GAME of Thrones' and 'Stella' actor Owen Teale will unveil a lasting memorial to the history of the Prince of Wales pub and local community of Kenfig at 3pm on January 15.

The event is being organised by Reach, Bridgend

County Borough Council's rural development team, and The Pub is the Hub, a not-for-profit organisation, which recognises the important role that pubs can play as centres for community life.

Using digital technology, a series of six short films starring Owen Teale and residents of Kenfig have been

made which look at various aspects of the history of the pub and local area, including how the building has served as a town hall, a courthouse, a morgue, a market and a venue for dances and other community events.

The event will include a guided tour of the pub and a screening of the short films. It will also unveil a special

kiosk that has been installed to provide visitors with stories, facts and interesting details about the pub and surrounding area, as well as information on local services.

For more information, contact the communications office on 01656 643217 or email liam.ronan@bridgend.gov.uk.

Volunteer for Marie Curie

I AM appealing to your readers to volunteer for Marie Curie Cancer Care's Great Daffodil Appeal – and help people with a terminal illness in south-west Wales get the care they need.

We're looking for people who can donate an hour of their time this February and March to hand out the charity's iconic daffodil pin in return for donations.

Marie Curie Nurses provide free care to local people with a terminal illness in their own home, but to continue providing this vital care we need people to help make this year's Great Daffodil Appeal a success.

If you're able to donate an hour of your time to help someone in their final hours, then please contact me on 01792 461435, or visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil.

Katy Tainton, (Marie Curie community fundraiser)

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)



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Dakota is a gentle giant

DAKOTA is a three-year-old Chow Chow.

Dakota is a really gentle giant, looking for a quiet home. He needs a loving owner who can give him a confidence boost, and help him learn that meeting other dogs can be fun.

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Contact linda.fegan@dogstrust.org.uk or visit website www.dogstrust.org.uk

PACT meetings

January

NEWCASTLE PACT public meeting will be held at the Civic Offices, Angel Street on Thursday, January 10 at 6.30pm.

MORFA WILDMILL PACT public meeting will be held at The Community Hub, The Precinct, Wildmill on Thursday, January 10 at 6.30pm.

BRYNTIRION, LALESTON and MERTHYR MAWR PACT public meeting will be held at Laleston Gardening Club, Laleston, on Thursday, January 24 at 7pm.

LITCHARD and PENDRE PACT public meeting will be held at Litchard Mission (off Litchard Terrace) on Monday, January 28 at 6.30pm.

FELINDRE, HENDRE, PENPRYS (PENCOED) and COYCHURCH PACT public meeting will be held at the Welfare Hall, Heol Y Groes on Wednesday,

January 30 at 6pm.

CEFN GLAS, LLANGWYDD and BRYNHAFRYD PACT public meeting will be held at Llangwydd Junior School, on Wednesday, January 30 at 5.30pm.

OLDCASTLE PACT public meeting will be held at The Library, Brynteg Comprehensive School on Wednesday, January 30 at 6.30pm.

BRACKLA PACT public meeting will be held at Brackla Junior School, Brackla Way, Brackla, Bridgend on Thursday, January 31 at 6.30pm.

February

MORFA TOWN PACT public meeting will be held at Penybont Primary School, Minerva Street on Monday, February 4 at 6.30pm.

COITY PACT public meeting will be held at Gilead Chapel, Heol Spencer on Thursday, February 7 at 7pm.

Tax help for elderly

TAXHELP for Older People will be holding advice surgeries at Old Hall, Cowbridge, on Thursday, January 17 and Pencoeed library on January 22.

To book an appointment, or to access the helpline, telephone 0845 601 3321 or 01308 488066.

Home visits can also be arranged via the helpline for people unable to attend the surgery.

Art workshops

ART workshops have begun at Y Centre, 25 John Street, Porthcawl, for both children and adults. Contact Siobhan Grice on 07866 277560.

Do something positive this New Year...
Don't be afraid to help yourself – or another!

ONE in four people experience mental health problems at some time in their lives.

Before Christmas, Ed Miliband spoke about the stigma associated with mental ill health, which he called "a taboo which must be broken" and described the problem of mental illness in the UK as the "biggest unaddressed health challenge of our age".

Carwyn Jones, First Minister and Assembly Member for Bridgend, also pledged the Welsh Government's support through a new policy – 'Together for Mental Health' which places combating stigma at the heart of its work over the next 10 years.

Unlike previous strategies, which have focused on treatment for mental health, this one broadens its approach to recognise that mental wellbeing can be attributed by a number of factors, including family breakdown, loss of job, debt or a change in role within the home – all of which can have a significant impact on an individual's mental wellbeing.

There are many agencies across Bridgend Neath Port Talbot county boroughs who can help. Visit www.siaradwnni.org.uk and click on latest news and find access to a complete directory of services for mental health and well being across the age range.

Throughout the year, the Big Lottery funded Siaradwn Ni – Let's Talk

programme holds free of charge courses and activities to help reduce suicide and mental health stigma and provides access to counselling for those affected by suicide. Co-ordinated by Bridgend Association

of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) and Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service, further information is also available by calling 01656 810400. JS

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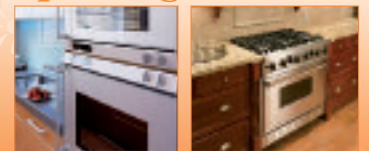
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Christ College goes from strength to strength!

CHRIST COLLEGE Brecon, one of Wales' oldest and most respected independent schools, started the academic year with strong growth in pupil numbers and with exciting plans both for the current school year and beyond. Recent A level results saw 76% of all A Level grades at A*-B with an overall A*-E pass rate of 99.5%.

These results formed the basis for pupils' successes in gaining places on a range of prestigious courses, from Chemistry at Oxford to Philosophy at Durham and from Medicine at Cardiff to Veterinary Science at Bristol.

The school has recently added to its already rich offering by introducing Psychology and Travel and Tourism at A level and the added offer of a Mandarin activity for all ages. A new system of personal tutoring in the Sixth Form has also been introduced to ensure every pupil is mentored and guided through those crucial final two years as they face the challenging terrain of university applications and decisions about their future.

Christ College recently unveiled a multi-million pound investment programme to celebrate its 475th Anniversary in 2016. This will include a £2m investment for Y Neuadd Goffa : Memorial Hall theatre to create a new, dramatic and multi-function space for school events, performances and conferences, which will also be available to the wider community on its completion in 2013.

At the same time, Christ College has announced that planning is underway to establish a Junior School.

Head of Christ College Emma Taylor said: "For many years Christ College has considered opening a junior school, or junior section. Earlier this year the school commissioned some market research into the feasibility of extending our teaching range below the age of 11, and the enthusiastic feedback from this research, as well as the changing nature and shape of the school over time, has encouraged us to make a decision in principle to go ahead and develop plans for teaching junior forms."

She added: "We are inviting expressions of interest from prospective parents in the near future and these will help us with our planning."

As well as celebrating the milestone anniversary, the developments reflect the school's charitable status and the commitment it is making to support the local community as much as possible. Mrs Taylor said that the planned investments would consolidate the position of the school as a provider of excellent all round education and an active participant in the community of Brecon and beyond.

Christ College will be holding their Sixth Form Scholarship Assessments on Thursday and Friday 17th and 18th January and their Year 7 and 9 Entrance and Scholarship Assessments on Friday and Saturday 1st and 2nd February. For further information or to register your interest, please contact the Admissions Registrar on 01874 615440 or via admissions@christcollegebrecon.com.

What is the **most important decision** you will make this year?



SIXTH FORM SCHOLARSHIPS & ENTRANCE ASSESSMENTS

Thursday 17th & Friday 18th January 2013

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Friday 1st & Saturday 2nd February 2013

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CARDIFF - PENARTH

PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Where past and present merge in Cardiff Bay

THE only way it seemed to keep the boots clean while partaking in a good walk, was to visit Cardiff Bay – and the 16 walkers who joined Ann for the trip enjoyed both, with some sunshine thrown in.

Pont y Werin led them across the River Ely – and beginning their circumnavigation of Cardiff Bay passing newly-developed areas, the group made their way to the second river that feeds Cardiff Bay, the River Taff.

From Clarence Road Embankment, the group crossed Hamadryad Park and into the Wetland

Reserve, opened in 2002 on land that was previously a salt marsh, which (after the barrage was opened) compensated for the fact the mud-flats were lost and attracts a huge assortment of birds.

Then past St David's Hotel with its sweeping sail-topped roof to reach the Mermaid Quay, which is endowed with bars, restaurants, shops and galleries.

The past is represented by the terracotta bricked Pierhead Building, built in 1897 and designed by William Frame, whose mentor William Burgess refurbished Castell Coch.

In 1897, it was renamed the Cardiff Railway Company and a coat of arms bears their motto *Ddwr a Than* (by

fire and water) and it became the administrative office for the Port of Cardiff.

Standing next door is the Senned or National Assembly building, which has three floors and was opened by the Queen on St David's Day 2006, with its modern glass façade and timber ceiling.

Crossing the bridge above Roald Dahl Plaza, the group reached the Norwegian church, where Dahl was baptised – constructed to serve the Norwegian community from 1868 and is a real landmark as it is painted white.

Nearby stands the Scott Memorial by Jonathan Williams, a mosaic in blue and white, with Scott ploughing south towards the pole and the faces of his four co-explorers ice-bound, and very poignant in the fact that Scott was beaten to the South Pole by Roald Amundsen a Norwegian.

In 2002, between Queen Alexandra Dock and Penarth Head, the Cardiff Barrage was constructed to make a huge lake, where in June 2008, the public were finally allowed access.

Swiss artist Felice Varini was commis-

sioned to produce a piece of public art and three yellow ellipses were painted onto the locks and gates of the barrage in perfect symmetry, with professional climbers completing the more difficult parts.

Making their way back through Penarth Marina with its collection of boats all safely moored for the winter, the group returned to Cogan Leisure centre by lunch time.

On January 12, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre, for a 9-mile hard walk to Fan y Big from Torpantau; contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.

On January 13, meet at 9am at the Barry Waterfront, for a 9-mile moderate walk at Gower taking in Oxwich and Horton; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

On January 15, the mid-week walk will leave Cogan at 9.30am for a 9-mile easy walk at the Gwent wetlands and RSPB centre; contact William on 01446 747239.

Membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Young Vale Show volunteers are rewarded with bursaries

THE Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Society has announced the winners of its bursary awards for 2012.

The awards were the idea of John Arnott, a director and life member of the society.

He felt the society owed a great debt to the young people who give up their time voluntarily during the summer to help out at the Vale Show.

The award is made to help the volunteers further their education or careers. Applications for the award must be received one month following the Vale of Glamorgan Show.

The criteria is that all applicants must spend time working for the society and are between the ages of 16 and 26.

Six bursaries were awarded this year to: Louise Edwards, Llandow; Isolde Whittaker, St. Brides-super-Ely; Lauren Evans, Llancafarn; Harry Gibson, Llancafarn; Ieuan Rosser, Llansannor; and Tom Rees, Pendoylan.

A spokeswoman said: "The society is extremely grateful to all the recipients for volunteering at the show and wish them every success in their future careers."



Next year, the show will be held on Wednesday, August 21, and organisation is well under way.

The society is delighted to welcome the Kangaroo Kid back to Wales as the main ring display – he and his son will be amazing the crowd with their motor cycling skills in the main ring.

Further details of the show can be seen on www.valeofglamorganshow.co.uk or contact Nicola on 01446 710099, or e-mail vale.show@btinternet.com



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HISTORIC DYFFRYN GARDENS STARTS NEW CHAPTER UNDER NATIONAL TRUST

DYFFRYN House and Gardens in the Vale of Glamorgan have been officially handed over to the care of the National Trust.

The Grade II-listed house and its impressive gardens will be managed by the National Trust on a 50-year lease, although the property will still be owned by the Vale Council.

The gardens were reopened to the public on Friday, and it was announced that five rooms in the Grade II house will be opened to the public this year.

Mike Calnan, the Trust's head of gardens said: "The National Trust is proud and honoured to be taking over stewardship of this very special Welsh garden.

"Dyffryn is an exceptional example of Edwardian garden design – with Thomas Mawson, garden designer – working closely with his gifted client John Cory.

"The gardens are subdivided into a number of garden 'rooms' each with its own distinct horticultural character.

"These are surrounded by a pleasure ground of sweeping lawns dotted with statuary, water fea-

tures, a rockery and kitchen garden and many rare and exceptional trees, including some of the UK's 'champions'.

"With so many features within the garden, there is certainly plenty for visitors of all ages to enjoy."

Justin Albert, Director of the National Trust in Wales, said: "Growing and shaping a glorious garden is a long-term project. The work done so far by all those involved with Dyffryn Gardens since its inception – the Cory family, Thomas Mawson, The Vale Council, Cadw and Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) – has produced an amazing site.

"The passion that has gone into creating Dyffryn Gardens over the years – from volunteers, staff and supporters – cannot be taken for granted.

"We want everyone to join with us in harnessing that passion for a new

stage of Dyffryn's journey."

Coun Gwyn John, the Vale Council cabinet member for leisure, parks, culture and sports development, said the handover is an important move to secure the future of the house and gardens and a boost for local tourism.

He said: "The council has undertaken a great deal of work to restore the house and gardens since acquiring the property in 1996.

"As well as restoring the gardens and glasshouses, we have developed excellent visitor facilities and undertaken work to protect the fabric of the house.

"The property will have an exciting future as part of the National Trust's portfolio and we look forward to seeing the gardens and house developed further, which will benefit tourism in the Vale and secure the future of this important

and historic estate.

"I'd like to thank all our staff who have worked on the project, and the Heritage Lottery Fund for the support they have given us over the years. We look forward to a long and successful partnership with the Trust."

Jennifer Stewart, the head of HLF in Wales, said: "Dyffryn House and Gardens is one of Wales's most significant heritage gems.

"We are delighted that the investment of more than £6 million of lottery funding will now be sustained through the expertise and experience of the National Trust.

"We will continue to work closely with the team at Dyffryn House and Gardens and the National Trust, and look forward to seeing the re-opening of the house in 2013."



Planting an oak tree to mark the start of the National Trust's 50-year lease of Dyffryn Gardens from the Vale Council (from left, Coun Gwyn John, Justin Albert, National Trust director for Wales, Coun Lis Burnett and Keith James OBE, chairman of the National Trust, Wales).

St Donat's concert

ST DONAT'S church is holding a candle-lit concert by musicians and singers from Atlantic College on Sunday, January 27 at 4pm.

Tickets £4 (including refreshments) from Nickleby's Bookshop, church members or at the door.

Proceeds will go to the church heating fund and the Shalom Project, South Africa.



NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO ADOPT PRIVATE SEWERS AND LATERAL DRAINS

To: The owner(s) of private sewers and private lateral drains which were made to communicate with a public sewer or public lateral drain vested in Dwr Cymru between the dates of 1 July 2011 and the 1 October 2012.

Dwr Cymru Cyfyngedig ("Dwr Cymru") gives notice under Sections 102 and 105A of the Water Industry Act 1991 ("the Act") that in accordance with a supplementary scheme made by the Welsh Ministers under the Water Industry (Schemes for Adoption of Private Sewers) Regulations 2011 ("the Transfer Regulations"):

On 1 April 2013:

any private sewer (excluding pumping stations and highway drains or sewers) situated within Dwr Cymru's sewerage area and which was made to communicate with the public sewer immediately after the 1 July 2011 and immediately before the enactment of section 42(1) of the Flood And Water Management Act 2010 on the 1 October 2012, any private lateral drain (excluding pumping stations) which was made to communicate with the public sewer immediately after the 1 July 2011 and immediately before the enactment of section 42(1) of the Floods And Water Management Act on the 1 October 2012,

On 1 October 2016, any pumping station which forms part of such a sewer or lateral drain and has not been transferred to Dwr Cymru before that date; will transfer to Dwr Cymru and become a public sewer or public lateral drain belonging to Dwr Cymru unless that private sewer or private lateral drain is subject to an outstanding appeal under Section 105B of the Act.

This notice does not apply to private sewers or private lateral drains which:

are owned by a railway undertaker; or are situated on or under Crown land and Dwr Cymru has received notice in writing before 1 October 2012 from the appropriate authority that the private sewer or private lateral drain should be exempt.

Any owner of a private sewer, private lateral drain or pumping station or any other person affected by the proposal to adopt a private sewer, private lateral drain or pumping station, or the failure to do so, may appeal to the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat) within 2 months of service or publication of this notice, whichever is the later. The grounds on which you can appeal are set out in Section 105B(3) of the Act. Ofwat can be contacted at: Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street, Birmingham, B5 4UA, or by email to: appeal@transfer@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk

Any terms used in the Transfer Regulations have the same meaning when used in this notice.

Nicola Williams
Company Secretary

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HYSBYSIAD O GYNIGIAD I FABWYSIADU CARTHFFOSYDD PREIFAT A DRAENIAU OCHROL

I: Y perchennog (perchnogion) cartthffosydd preifat a draeniau ochrol preifat a wnaed i gysylltu gyda charthffos gyhoeddus neu draen ochrol gyhoeddus a roddwyd i Dwr Cymru rhwng dyddiadau'r 1af o Orffennaf, 2011 a'r 1af o Hydref, 2012.

Mae Dwr Cymru Cyfyngedig ("Dwr Cymru") yn rhoi hysbysiad o dan Adranau 102 a 105A Deddf Diwydiant Dwr 1991 ("y Ddeddf") mai yn unol â chynllun atodol a wnaed gan Weinidogion Cymru o dan Reoliadau'r Diwydiant Dwr (Cynlluniau ar gyfer Mabwysiadu Cartthffosydd Preifat) 2011 ("y Rheoliadau Trosglwyddo"):

Ar y 1af o Ebrill, 2013:

y bydd unrhyw garthffos breifat (ac eithrio gorsafoddd pwpio a draeniau neu garthffosydd prifffordd) a leoli o fewn ardal garthffosiaeth Dwr Cymru ac a wnaed i gysylltu gyda'r garthffos gyhoeddus yn syth ar ôl y 1af o Orffennaf, 2011 ac yn syth cyn ymddeddiad adran 42(1) Deddf Rheoli Llifogydd a Dwr 2010 ar y 1af o Hydref, 2012, unrhyw draen ochrol ochrol breifat (ac eithrio gorsafoddd pwpio) a wnaed i gysylltu gyda'r garthffos gyhoeddus yn syth ar ôl y 1af o Orffennaf, 2011 ac yn syth cyn ymddeddiad adran 42(1) y Ddeddf Rheoli Llifogydd a Dwr ar y 1af o Hydref, 2012,

Ar y 1af o Hydref, 2016, unrhyw orsaf bwmpio sy'n ffurfio rhan o garthffos neu draen ochrol o'r fath ac nad ydych chi wedi'i throsglwyddo i Dwr Cymru cyn y dyddiad hwnnw; yn trosglwyddo i Dwr Cymru ac yn dod yn garthffos gyhoeddus neu'n draen ochrol ochrol gyhoeddus sy'n eiddo i Dwr Cymru oni bai bod y garthffos breifat neu'r draen breifat honno yn destun apêl sydd eto i'w gwneud o dan Adran 105B y Ddeddf.

Nid yw'r hysbysiad hwn yn gymwys i garthffosydd preifat nac i draeniau ochrol preifat sydd:

yn eiddo i ymgymwr rhwyffordd; neu sydd wedi'u lleoli ar neu o dan dir y Goron a bod Dwr Cymru wedi derbyn hysbysiad yn ysgrienedig cyn y 1af o Hydref 2012 oddi wrth yr awdurdod priodol y dylai'r garthffos breifat neu'r draen ochrol breifat gael ei heithrio.

Fe all unrhyw perchennog cartthffos breifat, draen ochrol breifat neu orsaf bwmpio neu unrhyw berson arall yr effeithir arno gan y cynigiad i fabwysiadu cartthffos breifat, draen ochrol breifat neu orsaf bwmpio, neu os methir â gwneud hynny, apelio at yr Awdurdod Rheoleiddio Gwasanaethau Dwr (Ofwat) o fewn 2 fis o wasanaeth neu o gyhoeddi'r hysbysiad hwn, pa un bynnag a ddaw hwyrach. Mae'r seiliau y gallwch apelio arnynt yn cael eu nodi yn Adran 105B(3) y Ddeddf. Fe ellir cysylltu ag Ofwat yn: Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street, Birmingham, B5 4UA, neu drwy anfon e-bost at: appeal@transfer@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk

Mae gan unrhyw dermau a ddefnyddir yn y Rheoliadau Trosglwyddo yr un ystyr â phan gânt eu defnyddio yn yr hysbysiad hwn.

Nicola Williams
Ysgrifennydd y Cwmni

Dwr Cymru Cyfyngedig
Heol Pentwyn
Nelson, Treharris
Morganwg Ganol
CF46 6LY
Cofrestrwyd yng Nghymru, rhif 2366777

OBITUARY RHYS WILLIAMS, LLANCARFAN

Respected point-to-point horseman

RHYS WILLIAMS, formerly of Aberogwm Farm, Llanccarfan, died on December 30 after a short illness.

The loving father of Evan and Helen Williams, Rhys will always be associated with Glanville Jones's *Norther*, which he rode to success in several point-to-points, before the horse went on to win the Golden Miller Handicap Chase at Cheltenham and the 1965 Welsh Grand National at Chepstow, with Terry Biddlecombe in the saddle.

Rhys used to ride out on *Norther* every day for Cowbridge trainer Denzil Jenkins and on two occasions, when partnering *Norther* in point-to-points, he beat *Snowdra Queen*, which went on to win the United Hunts Chase at

the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival in 1966.

Ironically, the horse *Snowdra Queen* beat was *Mr Worth*, owned by St Athan's Jack Thomas, and ridden by Castleton's Bill Jones.

Mike Thomas, who rode regularly against Rhys in point-to-points, said:

"Rhys was not only a good jockey but also a good horseman."

Another good point-to-pointer Rhys was successful with *Trunks*, on which he won a hunter chase at Warwick at very long odds.

One of the last horses I can remember Rhys winning on was *Arctic Lily*, which I believe he bred himself.

Interment took place at Zoor Presbyterian Church on Tuesday (January 8).

BRIAN LEE

'Police spread too thin in Vale'

A BARRY councillor is calling on the new Police Commissioner for south Wales to "commit more to neighbourhood policing".

Richard Bertin (Independent) has spoken with officers from South Wales Police who expressed concerns about cuts to frontline policing.

"They say too much of their time is spent on form-filling, book-keeping and backroom work and not enough time on our streets," he said.

Coun Bertin has written to the new PCC, for

South Wales, Alun Michael.

"The number of neighbourhood police staff in the town of Barry has considerably reduced over a number of years to such an extent they would seriously struggle if there was a major incident in the town.

"It also means that as frontline police officers are so thinly spread, they have to go into other areas to support colleagues, leaving their areas with skeleton staff. If Alun Michael was to bolster the response teams this would relieve the neighbourhood teams of their duties and allow them to operate more proactively."

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Could you benefit from an extra income?

IT'S easier than you may have thought – with no outlay or inconvenience. Sharon and Beverley are enrolling host families to take in foreign students on a very flexible arrangement – long-term (September to July) or short-term.

If you wish to earn a secondary income for 'just being a family', they would love to hear from you.

Meanwhile, enable your family to be enlightened by the traditions of a different culture while offering a 'home-from-home' base to further a student's education.

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Care 4 Pets has to start early!

DID you have a dog for Christmas, or do you have a dog that is becoming matted?

Breeds have changed considerably over the years, with many breeders mixing popular breeds to create new ones – although these dogs look beautiful, they can bring with them grooming problems.

Alison Moya, of Care 4 Pets, says: "It is essential that puppies are introduced to grooming early, and we offer a free consultation service for owners at our salon at Park Crescent, Barry.

"We encourage own-

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"This takes around five minutes, but is a really useful exercise."

For information on Care 4 Pets grooming, dog walking, home boarding and visiting services, call 01446 744633.

Mucky dog wash from just £7.99 for miniature breeds; free puppy introduction to grooming for dogs under 16 weeks; free grooming advice consultation for all dog owners; services include dog home boarding, walking, home visits and house sitting.

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Passmores Solicitors secures Law Society's new quality mark

PASSMORES in Barry has secured membership to the Law Society's Conveyancing Quality Scheme – the mark of excellence for the home-buying process.

Passmores underwent rigorous assessment by the Law Society in order to secure CQS status, which marks the firm out as meeting high standards in the residential conveyancing process.

Law Society president Lucy Scott-Moncrieff said that the Society introduced CQS to promote high standards in the home-buying process.

"CQS has established itself as the quality mark of the home-buying sector and enables consumers to identify practices that provide a quality residential conveyancing service."

"With so many different conveyancing service providers out there, CQS helps home-buyers and sellers seek out those that can provide a safe and efficient level of service."

Miss Carli Evans said: "Passmores is delighted to have secured CQS status. Buying and selling a home can be a stressful time. Choosing a solicitor to help in that process just got easier. By looking for a CQS firm like Passmores, the

public can seek out a firm that has proved its commitment to quality.

"The overall beneficiaries will be clients who use Passmores when buying a home. They will receive a reliable, efficient service, as recognised by the CQS standard."

The scheme requires practices to undergo a strict assessment, compulsory training, self reporting, random audits and annual reviews in order to maintain CQS status.

It is open only to members of the Law Society who meet the demanding standards set by the scheme and has the support of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, the Building Societies Association, Legal Ombudsman and the Association of British Insurers.

For more information on the Law Society's Conveyancing Quality Scheme, visit www.law-society.org.uk/cqs.

Contact the CQS Unit on 020 7316 5550 or CQS@lawsociety.org.uk

Passmores are based at 21 Tynwydd Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 8HB, www.passmores.com. Please contact us on 01446 721000 or by email mail@passmores.com for further information.



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The Welsh Government is offering a grant up to £1,000 for people who currently have less than 2Mbps to get this service.

One customer, S Blackman, said: "I've just updated my iPhone software and instead of seven-eight hours, it has taken

just 11 minutes with my new connection.

"I appreciate that the iPhone updates vary in complexity, but I think this time saving really illustrates the benefits of the Konek-T Broadband solution to us non-technical users."



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It does not necessarily mean that there will be a long and costly court process to resolve the issues.

It may be that legal guidance is only required at certain stages of the process.

For example, advice may be needed on how best to proceed when there is little equity in the matrimonial home, and there are young children to accommodate, which makes the question of whether to place the property on the market for sale a difficult decision.

Glamorgan Law LLP can help in a variety of ways with the process.

Contact the family law team on 01446 771742.

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Help at hand for couples separating

CONSIDERING divorce or separation may be worried about the cost, and whether they may have to go to court.

It may be reassuring to know that often the parties can avoid court proceedings. If their differences can be sorted out with the help of a solicitor, or through mediation.

This month, the Government announced an additional £10 million investment to enable more couples to have access to mediation.

Your solicitor can refer

you to a mediator and give advice during and after the process.

If you are separating, but are concerned about the cost, contact local solicitor Hayley Brain,

who can offer a fixed fee initial interview, and explain what options are available.

Telephone 07539 339888 or visit www.hayleybrain.co.uk.



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Well, according to Steve, he "want-

ed a new, meaningful career, but one which did not involve meeting financial targets and managing staff."

As he had always enjoyed being around children, fostering seemed the perfect choice.

Steve has now been working with Action for Children since 2010.

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as long as it takes

Huw's return to Frimley Green



THIS week, the eyes of the sporting world have turned to the Lakeside Country Club at Frimley Green, Surrey, where the Darts World Championships are being held.

Barry has its own interest in the event, with young referee Huw Ware taking part.

Before setting off for darts' most famous venue, Huw (19) told The GEM: "The tournament kicks off the British Darts Organisation's 40th anniversary celebration and is being held from

January 5 to January 13. There are 32 players competing for the £100,000 first prize."

Huw impressed the darts' authorities so much with his handling of matches that he was first asked to referee at Frimley Green last year.

This year's tournament started off with a shock. The defending champion, Dutchman Christian Kist, crashed out in the opening round!

Barry at War group boosted by Kick-Start

THE Barry at War Group has been awarded a Kick-Start Grant from the Vale Centre for Voluntary Services, to help the group to buy much needed display equipment.

Barry at War Group chairman Ade Pitman told The GEM: "This equipment will be used by the group to present the area's wartime heritage, both at our Glamorgan War Time Heritage Centre home and also at the many lectures that our team give to groups across the county."

"The equipment will also be used to provide support to the many other local history groups that we work with, but it's not just the money that is a boost to our work."

"The awarding of the Kick-Start grant is recognition of the work carried out by our small group of volunteers, who have worked more than 450 man-hours since being loaned the room by the Barry Tourist Railway in October."

"The Kick-Start grant is a tangible pat on the back to these dedicated volunteers and the work that they do for our community. Their hard work is area regeneration in action."

Ade continued: "The Kick-Start grant is provided by the Vale Centre for Voluntary Services (VCVS), who support voluntary groups across the Vale. They have been extremely helpful, and without a doubt, the Barry at War Group would not be able to deliver our exhibitions and other heritage work to the community without their continued support."

Clive Curtis from VCVS added: "We are pleased that we have been able to support this project through the

Kick-Start funding scheme. It's always good to know that the funding is being put to good use and we wish the project every success."

The Glamorgan War Time Heritage Centre, located at Barry Island Railway Station, opens its doors again on Sunday, January 13, when the South West Armoured Group will be exhibiting their radio-controlled tanks and inviting visitors to learn about these and the real tanks that they represent.

The event runs from 11am until 3pm and admission is free.

Ade concluded: "Barry at War Group hopes that the new Glamorgan War Time Heritage Centre that we have created in partnership with the Barry Tourist Railway becomes a community facility for local groups with similar interests, so that everyone benefits from the region's only wartime heritage attraction."

"Our open days are proving popular with both old and young alike, and our Heritage Lottery funded recording equipment is regularly capturing the memories of those people who experienced the Second World War."

"However, the centre isn't only about this aspect of the region's heritage, and our volunteers are currently creating a First World War 'trench experience'. As funds allow, we're aiming to create this and even more interactive exhibits that can inspire and educate the next generation of historians."

To find out more about the Glamorgan War Time Heritage Centre, see the new website at www.wartimeglamorgan.co.uk or telephone Ade Pitman on 07930 874161.

Everyone's Future partners against discrimination

EVERYONE'S FUTURE, an intergenerational partnership between Vibe Experience and Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale, is being funded by the Big Lottery until 2014.

Two new age equality workers are aiming to tackle negative stereotyping and challenge age discrimination of younger and older people.

As part of the project, Everyone's Future Working Group has been set up with project staff, older people, young people and professionals.

It will help shape the project, assist at events, and may form the catalyst for more future proj-

ects. A spokeswoman reported: "The first meeting in November was a huge success, but we're still looking for older and younger people to volunteer their time to help tackle the important issues of the project."

The second meeting will be held on January 15 at The Cardiff Trinity, The Old Library, Trinity Street, Cardiff, at 4pm.

For more information, contact Louise David, age equality worker (young people) via email louise@vibexperience.com or call 01446 700622 or Hannah Lewis, age equality worker (older people) by e-mail hannah.lewis@age-concern-cardiff.org.uk or 02920 683694.

Holocaust Book of Commitment is signed by MP

VALE MP Alun Cairns this week signed a Book of Commitment in the Commons, pledging support for Holocaust

Memorial Day, and honouring those who died in the World War Two Nazi genocide in which 6 million Jews perished.

Sunday, January 27, will mark the 68th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Nazi concentration and extermination camp, which is the site of the largest mass murder in history.

In signing the Book of Commitment, Mr Cairns paid tribute to those who died and honoured the "extraordinary Holocaust survivors, who work tirelessly to educate young people about what they endured," through the Holocaust Educational Trust's Outreach programme.

In the weeks leading up to and after Holocaust Memorial Day, thousands of commemorative events will be arranged by schools, faith groups and community organisations across the country, remembering all the victims of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides.

This year, people will also be encouraged to honour those communities that have been destroyed by genocide and reflect on the importance of coming together to oppose prejudice and hatred.

Mr Cairns explained: "Holocaust Memorial Day is an important opportunity to remember the victims of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides."

"I encourage all constituents to mark the day and to join members of community in the fight against

prejudice and intolerance."

Karen Pollock MBE, chief executive of the Holocaust Educational Trust, commented:

"We are proud that Alun Cairns is supporting Holocaust Memorial Day this year."

"It is vitally important that we both remember and learn from the appalling events of the Holocaust – as well as ensuring that we continue to challenge all forms of hatred and bigotry."

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Out and About with The GEM



by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

Tsunami movie 'lacks an emotional core'

GIVEN Hollywood's love of all things dramatic and real-life, they've shown tremendous restraint as regards the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004 that caused such devastation.

While Clint Eastwood's mediocre *Hereafter* touched upon

the disaster, it has taken until now for a film to deal exclusively with what happened on that fateful day.

The Impossible tells the story of a couple (Ewan McGregor and Naomi Watts) and their children, who are caught up in the full maelstrom. When they are split up by the tsunami, the family must be strong to survive in the hope that they will hopefully, be reunited...

True-life stories are notoriously difficult to bring to the big screen, especially when it comes to something that affected millions of people, with the impact still being felt now for many families.

Director JA Bayona hasn't shied away from telling this story of hope. *The Impossible* is a brutal, hard-to-watch film that never lets up the emotional drama, but it ultimately feels paper-thin and poorly acted. Bayona's focus on the story not allowing any room to manoeuvre in what is a draining film.

Following a perfunctory set-up which allows us to see the nature of the family we'll be following through the film, Bayona unleashes his centrepiece early on, with a stunningly rendered re-enactment of the tsunami hitting.

It is a jaw-dropping and heart-stopping set-piece that will leave you breathless while watching, such is the intensity and ferocity of it, and Bayona's skill in creating such a piece with a small budget is a testament to his abilities as a director.

The aftermath is also shockingly realised, as the carnage is there for all to see - bodies, vehicles, boats, all strewn across what was once land - and again, Bayona and his team realise this incredibly well.

From there on, the film plays as an against-the-odds story, one given extra emotion and power by the fact that it is true, but also one that simply hits the checklist of cinematic clichés.

While the emotion never fails to be ramped up by the situation, the story doesn't move in quite the same way, feeling all too one-note and straightforward.

The peril is there, but there is never that tension that things won't work out in the end, no real drama or conflict; instead it plays as a heartbreaking, yet pat, tale.

It isn't helped by performances that feel tired and dull well before the disaster strikes; I don't think I've ever seen Ewan McGregor or Naomi Watts so mediocre in a long time, with the young boys playing their sons, in particular Tom Holland, outshining the older performers with deft skill and aplomb.

There is no questioning that the true-life story which inspired *The Impossible* is an incredible one, but it's a shame that bringing it to the big screen has turned it into one that feels overly homogenised (and that's without mentioning that the Spanish family this happened to have become blonde haired and blue-eyed in the film).

Aside from JA Bayona's strong direction, *The Impossible* feels less like a triumph of human spirit and more like emotional manipulation.

VERDICT: - It may tug the heartstrings, but *The Impossible* would struggle to resonate without such emotional subject matter. While JA Bayona's direction is strong, weak turns and a poor script take an unbelievable story and make it seem all too 'Hollywood-ised'. **Poor.**

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: World Trade Centre (2006), Titanic (1997).

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

Ogmore advice

OGMORE MP Huw Irranca Davies will be holding a surgery tomorrow, (Friday, January 11) between 1pm-1.45pm at Pontycymmer OAP, followed by street surgeries in the area.

AM's surgery

ELUNED PARROTT, AM for South Wales Central, will hold an advice surgery on January 11 at Morrisons Supermarket, Penny Way, Barry, between 1pm and 2pm.

Market music at Peterston

THIS Saturday (January 12) from 10am-12noon, Peterston Village Market will be selling all the usual produce and baked goods, plants and books, while a gift rehoming stall will be selling unwanted presents and gifts.

All proceeds from this month's market will be donated to the 'Beach Buses' charity, set up by Glenda Clwyd, a professional harpist, to take children who have never seen the sea, to spend a day at the seaside.

Glenda will perform in the church and community hall during the morning.

Weavers' workshop

THE Glamorgan Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers will meet on January 12 at 10am-4pm with an open workshop at the Scout Hall, Dinas Powys.

For further details, contact Kirsten Gable on 01443 650336; email kirstengable@gmail.com or welshkirsten@ravelry.com.

Valeways walks

Sunday, January 13 at 2pm, coastal path east, starting at Sully Church, South Road, Sully.

Thursday, January 17 at 9.30am, The Dancing Stones (two hours), starting at St Nicholas outside the church.

Canolfan Porthceri

THE Mayor of the Vale will hold a charity coffee morning in the Corporate Suite, Civic Office, Holton Road,

Barry, on January 15 (from 10.30am to 12noon). Proceeds will be in aid of Canolfan Porthceri.

Senior citizens

THE next meeting of Cowbridge Senior Citizens will be held on Thursday, January 17, in Cowbridge Town Hall (Old Hall) at 2pm.

Dr Roger Weddell, a well-known local resident, will speak on Alzheimer's and ways of positive thinking.

Senior Citizens meet once a month, on the third Thursday afternoon.

A warm welcome will be extended to all new members and visitors.

Art session

ON Thursday, January 17, Cowbridge Art Society will hold a practical painting session run by local artist Patricia Mears, exploring pattern, colour and texture using mixed media.

Members are asked to bring along their own materials.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge from 7pm-9pm. visitors welcome.

For full programme, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com

Library events

JANUARY booksale at Cowbridge Library - lots of bargains to be had - fiction, non-fiction and children's books.

Storytime is back, every Wednesday during term time, 2pm-2.30pm. Bring along little ones for stories and crafts. Ages 0-5.

For more information, contact the library on 01446 773941.

Lucy joins the choir!

ON February 2, the Bethesda Community Choir at Dinas Powys will be performing with former X-Factor star, Lucie Jones from Pentyrch - a finalist in the 2009 series before being (controversially) voted off.

Since then, she has gone on to play the part of Cosette in *Les Miserables* in the West End.

Lucie is about to start a world tour in the Queen musical *We Will Rock You*, and will be bringing some of her friends from the theatre, including Dinas and Bethesda Community Choir 'old boy' Stephen Rolley, who recently played the lead in an

international production of *Hair*.

This is an unusual time for the choir, as members are used to putting their feet up until later in the year after the annual Christmas concerts at the Parish Hall.

However, the chance for this one-off collaboration - something not even Simon Cowell could bring together - was just too good to pass on.

Limited tickets for this one-off performance are priced at £6 and can be bought from the parish hall and Murch Post Office. They can also be ordered by phone on 029 2051 3401, or online at bethedacomcommunity-choir@yahoo.co.uk.

KW

Accordion band's record donations

THE Mid Glamorgan Accordion Band have celebrated their most successful year, which enabled them to donate over £1,300 to local charities, including the RNLI, Alzheimers Society, Cancer Research, Ty Hafan, Wales Air Ambulance, and Sandville Self Help Centre.

The band, 20 years ago, gave over 40 concerts to local organisations, including churches, community events and retirement homes, and are regulars at the Rest Hotel, and the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel in Porthcawl.

The band of seven players, all retired, but not all accordionists, play a repertoire of show hits, standard melodies, tangos, and singalongs during their two hour shows, and include some ex-professional players in their ranks.

Their success last year means they already have bookings through to the end of December 2013, although they are still actively seeking a singer to rehearse their repertoire for 2013.

GERRY EZARD (Leader and secretary)

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Conservatives query Carwyn's plan to buy Cardiff Airport

CONSERVATIVES in the Vale are continuing to question Labour's decision to consider buying Cardiff Airport.

They are calling for more answers and increased transparency over the Welsh Government's decision after the announcement was made during the Assembly's Christmas recess period.

The Shadow Minister for Transport, Byron Davies AM, said: "Christmas may be over, but one present to every Welsh taxpayer - remains unexplained and uncosted."

"The nationalisation of Cardiff Airport was a surprise to everyone but the Welsh Government, and that shroud of secrecy continues to define the issue."

"While finances must be studied, the airport buyers - essentially everyone in Wales - deserve answers."

He said that Conservatives had concerns over the accessibility of the airport, and that bus services pale in comparison to those at Bristol Airport.

While buses run from Bristol city centre up to every 10 minutes and for 24 hours a day, services from Cardiff are avail-

by PHILIP IRWIN

able every two hours during the day and hourly from Rhosee railway station.

Similarly, just one train runs to Rhosee from Cardiff city centre every hour. This is in stark contrast to Birmingham where there are seven trains an hour between the airport and city centre, and Manchester - where trains run every 10 minutes.

Mr Davies continued: "In the current financial climate, and at a time when the NHS is facing record-breaking budget cuts, the casual acquisition of an airport appears wasteful at best."

"The tens of millions of pounds being spent on this acquisition could be spent on other projects - such as the A55 or the Newtown bypass - and a guarantee on value for public money is needed."

"The First Minister must also commit to making the airport's accounts fully available as soon as possible."

"Be it health, education or the economy, Labour ministers stumble comically from one disaster to another."

"There is no current reason to believe their ownership of Cardiff

Airport will be anything but another financial calamity."

A Welsh Conservative debate on the issue was due to take place yesterday (Wednesday) in the Assembly.

A Welsh Government spokesperson said: "As the Business Minister told Assembly members, it would be totally inappropriate to release information that is commercial and in confidence, now the Welsh Government has entered into an exclusive 'due diligence' agreement with Cardiff Airport owners, TBL."

The Vale AM, Jane Hutt, said: "The Welsh Government's agreement to progress towards the purchase of Cardiff Airport is great news for the airport, the Vale and the whole of Wales."

"By taking the airport into public ownership, the Welsh Government can integrate it into its wider economic strategy and boost prospects for Welsh citizens, tourists, businesses and the aviation industry - particularly the British Airways Maintenance Centre."

"It is also key to the St Athan and Cardiff Enterprise Zone, backed by the public and private sectors, with the prospect of jobs for local people," she insisted.

Welsh Government is 'leaning towards focused regeneration approach'

THE chair of the Barry Regeneration Area Partnership Board, Coun Lis Burnett, has said reductions in funding for regeneration initiatives in Wales are due to UK Government cuts.

Barry faces a battle in the next few months to prolong its regeneration status beyond early 2014, and Coun Burnett, who attended a meeting arranged recently by Vale MP Alun Cairns on that issue, pointed out the Welsh Government was having to look at a more focused approach, because funding was contracting.

Coun Burnett told THE GEM: "I was happy to attend Alun Cairns' recent meeting to discuss the current Welsh Government consultation on regeneration - 'Vibrant and Vital Places'."

"As an area devolved to Wales, I was pleased that a local MP had shown an interest, even though at the meeting some misunderstandings became apparent."

"Those misconceptions unfortunately reappeared in Mr Cairns' article on December 20."

"The current consultation is exploring how Wales should carry out regeneration activities in the future."

"The reduction in funding is a direct result of the Tory-Liberal Democrat UK Government cuts, and so we have to restructure our regeneration initiatives to make them more effective with less money."

"Should we spread our funds ever thinner, so everyone has a slice, or focus it into a smaller number of areas where it can make the greatest difference?"

"The Welsh Government appears to be leaning towards a focused approach at present."

Coun Burnett said that approach could be to the town's advantage, but decision makers in Cardiff had to be persuaded that its case represented value for money.

"We need to make sure the Welsh Government knows what we can do with their funds and just what a difference we can make if they invest in us."

Coun Burnett stressed that the board had had regular meetings with the Minister concerned.

"Huw Lewis, the Minister for regeneration, is no stranger to Barry and has visited twice in recent months - most recently for a full and frank discussion with the Barry Regeneration Board."

"We will continue to have those discussions and continue to champion Barry and the rest of the Vale at every opportunity."

"To retain regeneration area status for Barry, it will take more than 10 people in a room on a wet and windy night..."

"It will take every one of us to play a part in creating the Barry of the future, and to persuade the Welsh Government to invest its scarce resources in us."

You can make your voice heard on the Welsh Government's consultation: <http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/businessandcommunity/vvp/?lang=en>.

The Vale Council's response to the consultation can be found at: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/our_council/council/minutes_agendas_and_reports/reports/cabinet/2012/12-17/vibrant_and_viable_places.aspx.



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If in doubt, turn to the catwalks for inspiration.

Bridal designers are seasons ahead, so you can tap into the fashion mood for your upcoming nuptials.

Check out the trends and you will find a wedding ensemble you'll be smitten with.

Fabrics to fall for are satin, silk, tulle, taffeta - the bridal options are endless but one fabric - lace - is still hot, even after a dominant year in 2012.

Lace was big, of course, because of the Kate Middleton-effect. After she and

by LISA HAYNES

William married in 2011, the profile of lace was raised to an all time high, but designers are still finding new ways to use the fabric in cutting edge designs.

Susi Rogol, editor of trade magazine Bridal Buyer, said: "Lace is being used in little sculpted shrugs to give a hint of cover-up, through to strapless gowns, and as detachable straps to complete top layers."

Meanwhile edgier brides are loving laser-cut fabrics to create surface texture and 3D effects, also achieved with swirls of ribbons or fabric forming an entire skirt of flowers or petals.

If you're looking ahead to a wedding later this year, look back in time for inspiration.

The year 2013 will be a vintage one, according to Susi Rogol.

Susi said: "Vintage is the direction that every influential designer is taking, harking back to the Thirties and Fifties in particular."

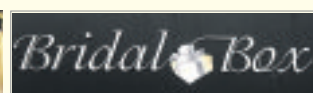
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

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BRIDES & GROOMS



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18 necklines and ballerina lengths on the other.”
Suzi added: “So think slinky body-clinging dresses in slippery Think Audrey Hepburn for satins with clever fabric manipulation to form shape and accentuate details like nipped-in waists, bell curve on one hand, and boat skirts and crisp silhouettes.



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CELEBRATING 20 years photographing rock stars, heads of state, society weddings and celebrity events, Llantwit photographer Derek Naylor has opened Studio Point Break in the heart of Llantwit Major next to Co Op.

A champagne reception was held before Christmas for friends, clients and fellow photographers to celebrate the opening of the new studio which boasts 50 square metres of gallery and studio space.

Derek explained: "Facilities include enough room to photograph large family groups and view images on the large screen in the viewing lounge - people can also enjoy the gallery and contemporary wedding albums."

"It is essential to give today's modern bride the time they deserve and many options to consider. The Studio is the perfect place to browse

sample albums, canvas prints and take advantage of the experience I offer."

He added: "Brides love the concept of not having any set packages and having complete control over budgets and album choice and seeing real weddings in albums or on display prints."

"The response so far has been fantastic and I am looking forward to holding one day photo workshops in the spring for groups of six covering a range of photography from basic to advanced skills."

"I am keen to hear from local photo clubs who may be able to make use of the Studio."

Derek is well known in the western Vale and has been actively involved in youth initiatives in the town for many years, notably as a volunteer with Major Music, and as a campaigner for the skatepark in Frampton with Major Skate.

You can contact Derek at Studio Point Break on: 01446 796636 / 07979 361520.

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For information and appointments, please call Healthcare Screening Ltd on 0800 6126106.

Osteoporosis

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Local Slimming World consultant's new group

LOCAL consultant Helen is getting ready to open her new morning group in Llantwit Major – after eight years as a consultant.

Helen said: "I am so excited to be opening a new group to enable me to help more members achieve their weight loss goal."

"There is no feeling in the world like seeing a member achieve their target, which is chosen by themselves".

After losing seven stone by eating normal, every day food and enjoying eating out weekly, Slimming World really is the plan for everyone, Helen confirmed.

"I love it when new members cannot believe all the food we can count as 'free'. My favourite foods are family foods such as spaghetti bolognese and lasagne."

"There is never a need to go hungry, Slimming World really gave me my life back".

Helen is now opening a group in the Catholic Church, Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major on Tuesdays at 9:30am

If you would like to find out more, please pop along, or call Helen on 01446 750738.

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TUESDAY
Llantwit Major
9.30am
Catholic Church, Ham Lane East
Helen - 01446 750738
(First group Thurs 3rd reverting to Tues 8th Jan)

Barry RFC
7.30pm
Merthyr Dyfan Road
Teresa - 07889 828401
(First group Wednesday 2nd Jan reverting to Tues 8th Jan)

MONDAY
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4.30 & 6.30pm
The Tadross Hotel, Holton Road
(next to Bassett Park)
Lorraine - 01446 407002

Rhoose
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Celtic Way Community Centre, Celtic Way
Helen - 01446 750738

Penarth
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Elfed Avenue United Church, Elfed Avenue
Nia - 07793 885581

TUESDAY
Barry - 5.30pm
Holy Trinity
Presbyterian Church, Trinity Street
Joanne - 01446 404897

Llantwit Major
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Our Lady & St Iltyd Church (Catholic)
Ham Lane East
Helen - 01446 750738

Sully - 6.30pm
The Old School
South Road
Niki - 01446 740394

WEDNESDAY
Barry
4.45 & 6.45pm
St. Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-y-Castell
Annmarie - 01446 736534

Barry - 6.00pm
Cadoxton
Methodist Church
Church Road
Joanne - 01446 404897

Penarth
9.30am & 11.45am
All Saints Church Hall
Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

Penarth
5.30pm & 7.30pm
All Saints Church Hall
Victoria Square
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THURSDAY
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Highlight Park Community Centre, Barry
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Cowbridge
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Rob - 07708 941279

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Sarah - 07525852288

Barry - 10.15am
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Scott Wroe Hearing Centre Penarth



"The aids have given me a new lease of life. I can now hear people on the phone and also background noises. My children, friends and relatives cannot get over the change in me. I wish I'd done it years ago."

– **Mr Bartley Phillips**

"I was put in contact with Scott Wroe Hearing and my life was transformed. The service has been excellent as has been the aids provided. Nothing has been too much trouble for Scott, Sue and Laura and any slight problem is quickly sorted out."

– **Dr. Alan Dudley (Retired GP) Penarth**

"Having lost 70% of my hearing, I was very glad but unsure when I was introduced by a friend to Scott Wroe. Now some years and three sets of updated hearing aids later I can't thank Scott enough for his excellent, kind and caring service. Without his professional help and advice my world would be a silent one, instead I can now hear more than I ever expected and for that I am most grateful."

– **Mrs S Smith**

"Hearing loss can be a very daunting experience. Fortunately I was lucky enough to be recommended to Scott Wroe Hearing Centre. With the highly skilled and sympathetic expertise of Scott Wroe I have come to terms with increasing deafness and learnt to combat the condition with expert modern technology. I am extremely grateful for all the help and up to date information I have received from this excellent firm."

– **Mrs J Thorpe**

- 30 day **FREE** trial on all hearing aids.
- 4 or 5 year warranty on all hearing aids throughout January and February.
- 5 year aftercare service plan with all hearing aids.
- Independent advice on all leading makes and models.
- Home visit service available.



Scott Wroe Hearing Centre is an independent, family run hearing aid centre with over 35 years experience of helping people improve their hearing.

Being completely independent of manufacturers means that customers come first and they will work with you to find the best solution to your hearing problems by choosing from the world's leading digital hearing aids.

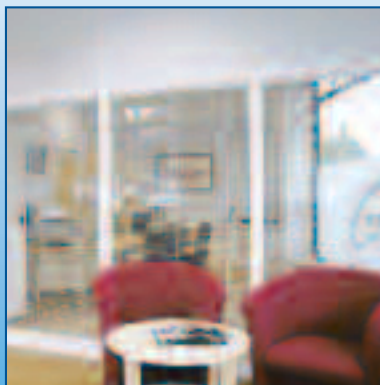
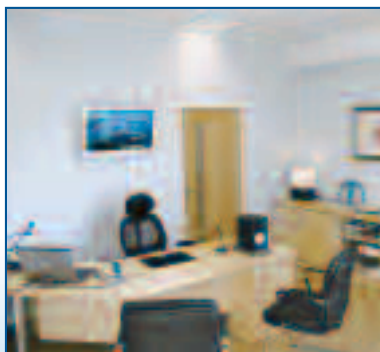
Scott and Susan are both registered under the Health Professionals Council and are Fellowship Members of the British Society of Hearing Aid Audiologists so you know you are in safe hands.

While friendly and welcoming, Scott Wroe Hearing Centre is equipped to the highest standards in the industry for a comprehensive diagnosis of your hearing needs.

You can also rest assured with a 30-day free trial so you can test your new aid in real life situations and take your time finding the make and model that suits your lifestyle.

They will also go the extra mile with home visits for customers having difficulty getting to their Penarth practice. There is a full aftercare service with your new hearing aid with check-ups to ensure that your hearing aid is performing correctly, Scott's team will make any adjustments or repairs and check that you're fully up to speed on operating and maintaining your new device at home.

Worrying about your hearing can be a distressing experience which is why Scott Wroe Hearing Centre makes sure the process of doing something about hearing loss is as comfortable and stress-free as possible and they will take the time to personally solve your problem.



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Pilates' course for beginners

A NEW beginners Pilates course starts at 7.15pm on Friday, January 18, at St Nicholas Hall, Barry.

Classes are led by qualified Pilates teacher Sharon Sylvester and are small and friendly, with a maximum of 12 places.

Pilates is a gentle form of exercise for the whole body, combining strength with flexibility, suppleness and better posture.

Sharon is a registered osteopath, working in Barry with people with all sorts of musculo skeletal pain, from minor sports injuries and bad backs to arthritic aches and pains.

New for 2013 is the Back Care Course, using clinical Pilates to help with back, neck, shoulder and hip problems.

To join for more information, contact Sharon on 07830 385606 or see www.barrypilates.co.uk

Romilly Osteopathy & Pilates Clinic Pilates Classes

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New Beginners Course Starts 18 Jan, Friday 7.15pm

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If you have any questions, would like to receive a brochure, or book an appointment, call our freephone number 0800 093 2293; or contact j.pearce@dolphinlifts.co.uk

One of south Wales' biggest independent health shops

THE trouble with New Year's Resolutions is that they have to last us a year - so we make them big...

And that is too much for us to achieve in January, so we lose heart and give up.

Let us make just a New Month's resolution - or, even better, a New Week's resolution, one

that can easily be achieved.

So what is it that you can do to improve your health this week?

Cut out just one treat? Eat one extra piece of fruit?

Join just one class?

If you need some help and support, visit Health Conscious and talk to Nicky, who can offer fitness classes, healthy foods and diet supplements.

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Vicky explained: "I work intuitively so that often one treatment will evolve into another to suit your needs."

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Web: www.hactos.co.uk

WE are now well into the winter months. However, this period is also invariably the height of the coughs and colds season.

Hactos Cough Mixture is a traditional herbal remedy and is licensed for the symptomatic relief of coughs, cold and catarrh.

The HAC Thomas & Company, which is responsible for marketing Hactos, is currently managed by pharmacist Fiona Thomas.

Fiona explained: "Hactos has always been a popular remedy here in the Vale of Glamorgan and the surrounding areas."

"Our product is stocked by many local pharmacies and various retail outlets."

To find out more, please visit their website www.hactos.co.uk.

True Relax, a way to beat stress

MAKE 2013 a stress-free year with True Relax! Do you dream of having a full refreshing night's sleep every night?

Do you want to beat anxiety whilst improving your mood, increasing your concentration

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True Relax was set up by Llantwit Major-based Debbie Wildi who, herself beat crippling panic attacks, insomnia and depression, by using her techniques based on meditation and psychology.

They are now taught all over Wales by Debbie and her colleagues in weekly classes and

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Kick stress to the curb and join hundreds of others who are reaping the benefits of these award-winning classes...

For information on True Relax, Mini Relax for children, or Teen Relax for teens, contact Debbie on 07542286349, debbie@truere-relax.co.uk or see www.truere-relax.co.uk

'Clean up your dog's mess'

LIKE Mr Evans of the Barry First Group, I have had enough of irresponsible dog owners who leave their dog excrement on public footpaths.

'HAZARDS FROM DOGS, TOO!'

IN response to GEM letter writers Mr Stone and Mr Powell – firstly, I would like to say how sorry I am that their dogs came across fish hooks and lines.

As a pet lover and fisherman myself, I can honestly say that even an irresponsible fisherman would not leave these lines and bottom ends behind on purpose as they cost around £3-£5 to make.

The irresponsible fishermen are the ones who leave their rubbish behind. Around 70 per cent of the fishermen who fish around this area belong to fishing clubs – for example, Sea View Lads Angling Club, Dow Coming and the Lead Heads.

I'd like to add that these clubs have a very serious policy to ensure that we remove all our rubbish, which as fishermen, we take very seriously.

This practice is totally unacceptable and must come to a stop. I live on Rhoose Point and am sick of dodging dogs' mess when I am out and about with my baby in his buggy – both on the beautiful coastal foot-

However, there are a select few that let us down. I feel this is the case with some dog owners.

The majority of people clean up after their dogs, but just as a few let the team down for fishermen, it's the same with dog owners. The irresponsible dog owners are the types that don't pick up their dog mess!

Some of them bung the bags of mess on to tree branches, on to benches and even on to café tables after they have had their coffees!

As fishermen sitting on your tackle boxes watching your rod or bringing your line in, you turn around and see a dog doing its business on your rucksack, clothing or pinching your bait.

When you tell the dog off, you get abuse from the owner.

I am not trying to have a go at the dog walkers/owners – I'm just trying to put the fisherman's point across.

John Jones (SLAC) Barry

paths and within Rhoose village itself. I have lost count of the amount of times I have had to disinfect the buggy's wheels and clean my shoes after inadvertently stepping in this foul waste.

If people are not prepared to pick up their dog's mess, they shouldn't be allowed to keep a dog as a pet. It's not one of the more pleasant aspects of pet keeping, but the absolute responsibility of the dog owner/walker to clean up after their animal.

Please don't think we walkers don't notice when you allow your dogs to defecate in the grass verges and think no-one has seen it and, therefore, you do not need to pick it up and

walk away. You do; you are being incredibly selfish by not picking this up, dogs' mess harbours all sorts of horrible diseases and bacteria, such as tapeworms; salmonellosis; cryptosporidiosis; campylobacteriosis – all of which could prove fatal to young children, who could potentially trip and fall in the mess you leave behind you.

Perhaps the reintroduction of a dog licence would help with the penalty of having your beloved dog being taken from you and rehomed if you persist in failing to clean up after it – as you are clearly incapable of looking after it properly. **Mrs Biddle, Rhoose.**

DOGS' MESS: 'fine the owners'

ISPEND money and not inconsiderable effort maintaining my Cowbridge lawn and often passers-by remark on its good condition.

Last year, I wrote to The GEM complaining about the number of occasions that I had to clear up dog poo before I could mow the grass.

Dog deposits have now started appearing. Some cretinous dog owner has allowed his/her dog to foul my lawn again. The dog must have been off the lead because the large deposit is about eight yards from the pavement.

I cannot believe this happened during daylight hours, because of the number of people using Town Mill Road and the fact that the area is

overlooked by Southways staff and residents.

Most dog owners walking along Town Mill Road have their dogs on a lead and so the few who allow their dogs to walk without a lead are the exception.

As far as I am concerned, the offending dog owner is nothing more than a social outcast.

I know that dog owners in Barry and Penarth have been penalised when their dogs have fouled public places. Perhaps Cowbridge needs the agency employed by the Vale Council to have a presence here to fine offenders.

It would also deter offenders if their names and addresses could be printed in the local press so that neighbours could identify offenders. **LD Thomas, Cowbridge**

GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

'The BBC has lost its way' – says reader

IWAS vaguely hopeful, when we were told that a complete review of the management of the BBC was to take place, that the deplorable 'dumbing down' policies of the BBC, of the last 30 years, from its original high standards, widely respected across the world, might possibly be reversed.

But my hopes have been dashed: the BBC continues to operate in imitation of commercial TV, with the world news distorted by celebrities, the sneering Paxman, or the clownish Andrew Neil, each on a £1 million pa salary.

If I want to hear an unbiased

and truthful account of what is happening in the world, which once the BBC uniquely provided, I must now turn to Al Jazeera.

I am very surprised to have to acknowledge such high standards, from a source where I was earlier prejudiced.

But the cancer at the heart of the BBC was most obviously displayed, when Lord Patten, chairman of the Trust, hotly rejected and dismissed the criticism of a House of Commons committee, that Mr Entwistle had been vastly overpaid when he resigned, as being unjustified – because he pointed out that Entwistle's contract declared he must get two years' salary, if he was sacked. It was cheaper if Entwistle resigned.

What a laughable defence to

offer, as evidence of Patten's competence. Who in their right mind believes that it is efficient management to draw up such a contract, where, if I am shown to be so bad at my job that you are forced to get rid of me, you must pay me a sum equal to the rewards for two years' hard, successful work?

The contract itself condemns Patten's view of efficiency: the fact that he seeks to use it as a proof of his wise stewardship, is evidence of his lack of understanding.

But the thinking behind such a ludicrous document, also suggests a deeper malaise at the top of the BBC.

Neville Westerman, Brynna.

Campaign reunion visit to Egypt

ASUEZ Canal Zone – Cairo – campaign reunion visit will take place on May 16-24.

I organise return visits back to the Egyptian Canal Zone, where I also served in the 1950s, along with thousands of other personnel.

I know that many service people who live in your circulation area were stationed there during the troubled times of the 1950s.

Many of our service personnel died and are buried in the cemeteries that we visit; Ismailia, Fayid, Moascar, Tel-el-kebir.

I will take photos of any friends or loved one's graves, if any of your readers would like me to (complimentary).

Also, if any of your readers would like to join us on our next group, I still have a few places left.

We will be visiting Cairo and staying at a hotel in Ismailia overlooking Lake Timsa and visiting other places in the Canal Zone.

I am limited to 30 places on this reunion visit, due to the fact it is still a military restricted area – spouses are welcome.

Alf Avison, Middle East Land Forces Association, PO Box 99, Spalding, Lincolnshire. PE11 9NS Telephone 07814 832441; email alfavison@talktalk.net.

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Model shown is New Auris Icon 1.33 VVT-i 5 door manual £17,345. Offer excludes metallic paint extra £495. Prices correct at time of going to press. *0% APR Representative only available on new retail orders of New Auris Icon (excluding Hybrid) when ordered between 1 December 2012 and 31 March 2013 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services, Great Bingham, Bury Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UJ before 30 June 2013 on a 3 year Access Toyota (ACP) plan with 0-25% deposit. *Payment shown is based on a 3 year Access Toyota contract with £4199.07 deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Interest may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Excess miles over 30,000 charged at 8p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and conditions apply. Affordable finance through Access Toyota. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions.

New Auris Icon 1.33 VVT-i 5 door manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.8 (5.6), Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7), Combined 52.3 (5.4). CO₂ Emissions 125g/km.



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Models shown are Yaris Edition 1.0 VVT-i 5 door manual £11,795. Metallic paint £495 extra. AYGO Fire 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual £5,835. Metallic paint £495 extra. Prices correct at time of going to press. *0% APR Representative only available on new retail sales of Yaris (excluding T2 and hybrid), AYGO (excluding Entry model), Auris (MY13 excluding Active and Hybrid Synergy drive), Verso (excluding MY13 Active) and Rav4 when ordered between 1 December 2012 and 31 March 2013 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services, Great Bingham, Bury Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UJ before 30 June 2013 on a 3 year Access Toyota (ACP) plan with 0% deposit and 0-25% deposit on MY13 Auris and MY13 Verso. Interest may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Excess mileage over 30,000 charged at 8p per mile on Auris, AYGO and Yaris, 8p per mile on Verso and Rav4. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and Conditions apply. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions.

Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Yaris Edition 1.0 VVT-i 5 door manual: Urban 48.7 (5.8), Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3), Combined 58.9 (4.8). CO₂ Emissions 111g/km; AYGO Fire 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual: Urban 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 74.3 (3.8), Combined 65.7 (4.3). CO₂ Emissions 99g/km.

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The result was calculated from the Customer Satisfaction returns of nearly 16,000 households across Britain and Ireland - every single customer of every member company for the whole year, with the award being presented by snooker legend Steve Davis at Network VEKA's AGM in Cheshire.

Six times World Champion, Steve, who is also the Brand Ambassador for Network VEKA, told the MPN team, "All Network VEKA members maintain incredibly high standards, so you really are competing against the best of the best. Congratulations."

MPN's Paul Webster collected the trophy and said of the win: "Our reputation is very important to us and we are extremely committed to customer service. It's great to be recognised for all our hard work."

In our photograph, Steve Davis presents the trophy to Paul and Melanie Webster and Paul and Hannah Glastonbury.



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Air Force cadets show off their marksmanship



THE SHARP SHOOTERS.

CADETS from 2300 (St Athan) Air Training Corps recently displayed their marksmanship at MoD St Athan.

They were joined by cadets from Pontyclun, Treorchy, Aberdare, Pontypridd and Aberdare.

The cadets fired two rifles, as well as tackling weapon handling tests and marksmanship award badges.

The 2300 Squadron, representatives were Corporals Hannah and James Gaskin, and Cadets Tom Davey, Ben Chester, Ellie Bown, Owen Kendrick and Cameron Sleeth.

There was also a chance for the cadets to take part in the Battle of Britain Small Bore Competition Shoot. Each squadron entered a team of four cadets who shot a .22 calibre target rifle.

Congratulations to St Athan, who in the first round of the shoot came eighth out the entire Air Training Corps! Ben Chester and Hannah Gaskin

scored 87/100, James Gaskin scored 81/100 and Tom Davey scored 76/100, for a total of 331/400!

This is an outstanding achievement, and the team look forward to competing in the second round after Christmas.

2300 St Athan wishes everyone a Happy New Year!

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS

2300 St Athan Squadron is currently recruiting, and if you fancy doing flying, gliding, shooting, sports, adventure training, DofE and much more, contact the squadron on 01446 798684. Parade nights are Mondays and Wednesdays, 7pm-9.30pm; all between 13-18 are welcome!

We have all of the facilities on the MoD base, including a flight simulator, accommodation, rifle range, a runway and gyms.

Contact Flight Lieutenant David Bentley-Miller at oc.2300@aircadets.org for more information.

Lions Clubs look forward to bigger and better 2013...

COMMENTING on a New Year report by Wing-Kun Tam, chairperson, of Lions Clubs International Foundation, setting out charity work undertaken in 2012 by the foundation, local District Governor 105W Lion Harry Smith said:

"It is always interesting to learn what we as Lions throughout the world can achieve when we work together for the benefit of others."

"I believe that we can be justifiably proud of the results."

"However, similar success is being achieved in smaller ways by individual Lions' clubs throughout the British Isles, on almost a weekly basis."

"My hope for the remainder of the year, is to attract new membership into Lions – to enable us to achieve even greater things."

"On behalf of all of the clubs in District 105W, I thank the communities that they serve for the sterling support they give to our work."

Computer club learns that making predictions is a perilous business!

YOU may have seen in the press a few predictions about what the future will bring: Some forecasters are bright and have good ideas, but as far as computing is concerned, there have been some spectacularly wide of the mark.

In 1943, T J Watson, president of IBM was reputed to have said: "I think there is a world

market for maybe five computers."

At that time, the building of Colossus at Bletchley Park was highly secret and for years, computers were so costly as to need a national budget, and so large that people walked round inside them.

In 1949, Jon von Neumann thought that the limit of what computers could do had been reached. Although he had developed the basic design of computers that is still in use today, he could not envision the possibilities.

He had sense enough to note the possibility that he could look a bit silly in a few years time.

In 1949, computers could weigh over 20 tons. Popular Mechanics foresaw that this could be reduced, and suggest-

ed that in future they would weigh well under two tons. They were right, but way out because some now fit into a small briefcase.

In 1962, Dennis Gabor, who won the Nobel Prize for the invention of the hologram, recognised that the transmission of documents by telephone was possible. However, he also thought that the process would be so expensive that it would never be a practical proposition.

As late as 1977, the founder of the Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) publicly thought: "There is no reason for any individual to have a computer in his home."

(What he thought about a woman owning one is not recorded.)

When personal com-

puters became available, no-one realised what they would be called on to do. When Bill Gates of Microsoft released his Disk Operating System (DOS), he thought that 640kB of memory "should be enough for anyone." Modest computers these days use about 10,000 times that amount.

It might surprise you to learn that the most accurate prediction was one that wasn't made at all: The transistor arrived to displace valves commercially in 1956 and was incorporated into computer chips.

In 1965, Gordon Moore (founder of Intel) noticed that the number of transistors built into an integrated circuit on the chip had doubled about every two years.

He merely mentioned the trend in a talk he gave. When it continued to hold true it became known as Moore's Law.

It has been predicted to reach its limit several times, but each time a new development has enabled it to hold true for over 50 years.

It is currently expected to hit the buffers around 2020, but seven years from now, who knows? It might continue to hold true. IBM tech. people speculate that a supercomputer will eventually be reduced to the size of a sugar cube.

Our next meeting is on January 22 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, (7.30pm), topic to be decided. See penarthcomputerclub.co.uk.

Howard Desmond

Air Ambulance raffle deadline

HELICOPTER three cash prizes totalling £6,000 to be won, with money raised going directly into helping to keep the charity's three air ambulances flying.

The closing date for tickets to be returned is January 14, and the draw will take place on January 18. There are

All money, counter-foils and unsold tickets should be returned to:

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ALL SMILES AS PORTHCAWL OFFERS CHRISTMAS WELCOME TO SWIMMERS



PORTHCAWL'S Christmas morning swim these days has many rituals associated with it these days.

There are weird and wonderful fancy dress outfits and, at the other extreme, skimpy costumes (male and female!).

Also, the events attracts photographers keen to capture an arresting image and, as GEM photographer Keith E Morgan was indisposed, Mary Emmet-Lewis took charge of his camera and took the photographs on this page (apart from the one she is in!)

Pictures by **MARY EMMET LEWIS**



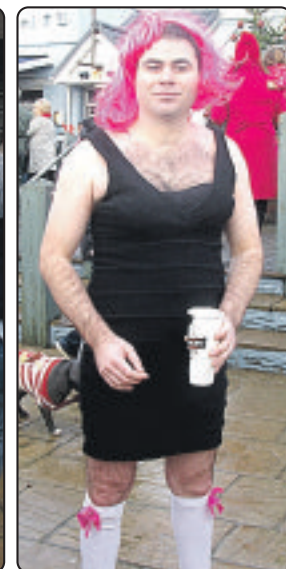
Mary Emmet-Lewis (centre) with Linda Fletcher (left) and Ruth Birch (right) from the Porthcawl Royal British Legion.



Dave King and his Porthcawl firefighters try to drag Keith E Morgan from his sick bed to come along to the swim!



ABOVE: Porthcawl Town Mayor Coun Alana Davies and consort Coun Brian Davies with Coun Christina Rees (left).



KENFIG HILL RUGBY ROUND-UP

Stunning Cup win for the youth

KENFIG HILL/CORNELLY youth played the highly rated Narberth in this re-arranged Welsh Youth Cup fixture.

They played some scintillating rugby, emerging victorious 56-0.

Kristian Stenner led the way with three well taken tries, Aaron Grabham scored two tries and there were also tries for Mike Kennedy, captain Kyle Davies, and Lee Arrowsmith; Lloyd Bradley put over five conversions and two penalties.

Tom Lodwig was named as man of the match with props Lee Williams and Gerwin Stone having outstanding games.

Lee Arrowsmith played well in the back row and captain Kyle Davies had a good game, with Kristian Stenner and Aaron Grabham the pick of the backs.

Coach Ben John said the team was a bit rusty to start after the enforced lay off due to the bad weather but once they warmed up they played some stunning rugby.

award of a scrum near to the Pontardawe line.

Kenfig number 8 Nathan Jones picked up at the base of the scrum trying his luck down the blind side but was quickly brought down. Good rucking by the rest of the forwards ensured clean ball for scrum half Connor Tantom to feed the back line.

The ball was swiftly moved to outside centre Sam Young who showing his trademark aggression shrugged off the first tackler and despite the best efforts of two further tacklers managed to touch down for the opening score.

The second half brought about a few changes in the Kenfig Hill line up and with it improved fortunes. The Kenfig backline started to put some good moves together and the addition of right wing Scott Hodgson added a further attacking dimension.

Following a few good Mules half chances being created, midway through the second half Kenfig scored their second try.

A neat chip from Young towards the right hand side touchline allowed Hodgson to run onto the ball and beating the Pontardawe full back to it, kicked it on towards the try line.

A friendly bounce of the ball popped it into Hodgson's arms and gave him a straightforward run in under the posts. The try was duly converted by Tantom.

While Pontardawe never gave up or let their heads drop they never really troubled the Kenfig line after this. A knock on in the Pontardawe midfield meant the ball went to

ground and allowed Hodgson once again to kick through.

With no one on either side able or trying hard to pick it up, the ball ricocheted off numerous boots with Hodgson finally providing the most accurate 'pass' over the try line where he once again touched down under the posts.

With this score once again converted it meant Kenfig had deservedly won the game scoring 19 unanswered points.

A much improved second half performance from Kenfig made up for an unsurprising slow start. The team as a whole defended well when necessary and the forwards, while under pressure, at times in the scrum stuck to their task well.

Special mention to Lewis Rees playing in the front row who made a number of attacking breaks showing a tremendous turn of pace and evasive quality in his running.

In a close decision for man of the match it was finally awarded to Scott Hodgson, who, after only coming on at half time, looked dangerous and took his two tries well.

JC

Bridgend Bridge Club

RECENT results for Bridgend Bridge Club were as follows:

November 28 – First, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams; second, Marjorie Morris and Linda Pincock; third, Barrie Waite and David Newman.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7pm at Noltan Church Hall, there are lessons on Fridays, also at Noltan Church Hall, with Graham Jones.

All welcome, to register an interest, please contact Graham Jones (01446 775952), Steve Burgoyne (01656 6661968) or David Newman (01656 646789).

On Thursdays at Noltan Church Hall in January, there are friendly sessions for those who would like to try Duplicate Bridge. For further details, contact David Newman or Steve Burgoyne.

Bryncethin youth come away with win

BRYNCEETHIN youth entertained Ynysybwyl in a hard fought friendly between two evenly matched sides and emerged victorious by 17-5.

The whole match was played with high intensity and both sets of players attacked at every opportunity.

Ynysybwyl started the more spritely of the two sides and from the kick off camped themselves in the Bryncethin 22; despite a number of attempts to cross the whitewash Bryncethin held strong until Ynysybwyl were awarded a penalty.

They opted to kick for touch, from the resulting lineout they started a rolling maul and their flanker was able to dive over in the corner; the conversion drifted wide.

From the restart Ynysybwyl gathered the ball and again camped themselves in the Bryncethin 22, but some excellent defensive work by Bryncethin kept them at bay until they were able to steal the ball at a break down and clear their lines.

Both teams had chances in the rest of the half but some excellent tackling and the slippery conditions thwarted the attempts of both teams until Bryncethin were awarded a penalty just outside the Ynysybwyl 22.

Outside half Paul Short kicked the penalty and this concluded a pulsating first half.

Bryncethin applied pressure from the restart and camped themselves in the Ynysybwyl half.

They slowly moved the ball up the field and

into the 22, and from a scrum near the 5 metre line, no. 8 Liam Thomas picked up, handed off his defender and scored in the corner. Short added the extra points.

Both teams attacked ferociously but held defensively, and Ynysybwyl were awarded a kickable penalty half way through the half but due to the conditions their kicker lost his footing and the ball sailed wide.

From the drop out 22, Ynysybwyl kicked the ball back into the Bryncethin 22, the ball was caught by prop Tom Lewis who charged at the Ynysybwyl players.

When he was eventually brought down, hooker James Harris took up the charge, then locks Derek Prewett and William Thomas carried the ball before centre Owen Watkin entered the line at pace and made his way into the Ynysybwyl 22, where Bryncethin were awarded a penalty.

Scrum half Geraint Watkin took it quickly and offloaded the ball to Short who drove towards the line.

He was tackled just short of the line but Lewis was on hand to pick up the line and dive over the line; Short added the conversion.

With time running out Ynysybwyl mounted one last assault, but some excellent tackling and defensive covering kept them at bay, and when flanker Connor Law stole the ball in a ruck, Short kicked for touch to end the game.

Tom Lewis was man of the match for Bryncethin for his all round defensive work, support play and scrum-maging.

HR

WIN FOR ATHLETIC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 40

Director of rugby Pail Yardley was delighted with the victory describing the performance as huge especially uphill and against the wind second half when the team scored 17 points.

He wants the team to build momentum from this win to climb the table. Currently the Athletic are in 10th place – but only three points behind 8th placed Beddau with two games in hand.

They face a major challenge this Saturday hosting league leaders Bargoed, before another home game the following week against Pontypool.

CWMBRAN 1ST XV 10 BRIDGEND 2ND XV 18

Without a league fixture Bridgend Athletic 2nd XV arranged an away fixture against Cwmbbran 1st XV and they outscored the Division 4 East outfit by 4 tries to 1 in a 28-10 victory.

Athletic try scorers were Dan Apsee, Harry Griffith, Gareth Davies and Ben Howe. Apsee converted one try and Tom Cole added two penalties to increase his season's points tally to 111 points.

Centre Ben Howe and hooker Chris Whitcombe – both playing outside their normal positions, were the pick of the Athletic backs and forwards.

AB

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Porthcawl RFC start new year with a bang!

The Seaweeds greeted the first match of the new year with a thumping 57-8 away victory over a plucky but overawed Ferndale side.

Following weeks of inactivity the visitors were keen to start with a bang and virtually straight from the kick-off top try scorer Dai James found himself scampering over at the corner for a try created by slick handling. Aled Davies' conversion made it 0-7 inside two minutes.

With the Porthcawl pack full of purpose and the backs making good use of the welter of possession available, the first half quickly became a procession of tries with the bonus points soon racking up.

James got his second try and was followed to the tryline by Nick Nutman, Aled Davies himself and Matthew Owen, who scored the try of the match following a brilliant break out of defence by Mathew Roberts and marvellous interplay between the backs.

Davies converted every try with a superb kicking display, including one from right on touch.

Ferndale's only consolation of the half was a penalty by C.Knowles for a 3-35 lead to



**ABOVE: Ollie Jones makes a pass.
PICTURES BY TRACEY WILLIAMS**

Porthcawl, the match effectively ended barring a complete turnaround in the second half.

Aled Davies opened the second spell with a good penalty before Dai James made it a great opening day of the year for himself by notching up his hat-trick try, again improved by Davies for 3-45.

Ferndale's resistance kept the scores to a trickle as the half went on, with the heavy conditions evening up the match, yet with Porthcawl already home and dry.

For the Seaweeds, Davies' only failure with the boot was missing the conversion of full-back

Ollie Jones' try which brought up the half century of Porthcawl points before the home side finally roused some local cheers with a corner try by T Evans for 8-45 going into ten final 10 minutes.

The final word went to Davies as he rounded off a virtuoso performance of 27 points with his second try, which he goaled, for a final score of 8-57.

Coach Blair Driscoll will be well pleased with going back to the top of the table and the visit of Rhigos to South Road on Saturday offers a further opportunity to keep ahead of the pack.

PF

Athletic Youth back in action - but slip to loss

AFTER a long layoff due to the extreme weather over the Christmas period Bridgend Athletic youth were delighted to welcome Penallta youth to Newbridge Fields for the first game of 2013.

Penallta youth came with a reputation of being an extremely well organised and successful side playing at the top of the Dragons A league.

This indeed proved to be the case and they started the match strongly, winning good ball at the scrums and lineouts and spreading the ball to their talented backs at every opportunity despite the sticky conditions under foot.

Only brave Athletic defence kept the visitors out on a number of occasions in the first quarter but the pressure finally told after some 15 minutes when some excellent work from the Penallta number 10 put his inside centre through the gap for their first try. The try went unconverted making the score 5-0 to the visitors.

The Athletic would not concede however and began to take the game back to the visitors at every opportunity, particularly up front where back row forwards Rory Thomas, Lloyd Wilson and Ellis James were outstanding.

Penallta youth continued to throw the ball about at every opportunity and while it was clear their backs were tal-

ented, their second try could only be regarded as fortunate when some scrambled defence allowed the ball to be hacked through for an opportunistic score.

The conversion again went wide to make the half time score 10-0 to the visitors.

The Athletic started the second half at a fast pace and began to put real pressure on the Penallta pack with one rolling maul travelling 30 to 35 metres.

This proved to be the pattern for much of the third quarter with the Athletic beginning to win much of the possession and territory.

The pressure finally paid off for the Athletic when flanker Lloyd Wilson picked up from an attacking ruck and sprinted some 20 metres for a well deserved try.

This was converted by Scott Govan to bring the score to 10-7 and a game was now on.

The remainder of the game saw sawed back and forth from end to end but good defence from both sides did not allow any further score, the game ending at 10-7 to Penallta.

The game was very tough but played in an excellent spirit. While a loss for the Athletic it was just what they needed with the league season restarting next week with an away game at Bonymaen to look forward to.

MF

Tondu Under- 13s lose to Porthcawl

On Sunday, Tondu under-13s had their first game since Christmas, and entertained Porthcawl under-13s at Pandy Park.

Porthcawl were first to score an unconverted try, but Tondu attacked right from the drop out and moved the ball between forwards and backs with some really slick passing and slight of hand and kept the ball in play for long periods and managed to put C.

Gibson in out wide.

Tondu were caught cold at the start of the second half and allowed Porthcawl to score a couple of tries, but they didn't drop their heads and kept moving the ball wide only to be denied by a resolute Porthcawl defence.

Mention has to be made of the improvement in the tackling from the last game, but they must keep it going, and support the ball carrier.

Final score Tondu 5, Porthcawl 29.



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Birthdays

Happy Birthday PHIL IRWIN on 8th January



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Thank You

"THANK YOU" JEAN HURN

Jean would like to thank all family and friends for their good wishes on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

THANK YOU

MONA BLANCHARD
would like to thank all her friends and groups for all the lovely cards and Christmas wishes sent to her.

Articles For Sale

ADVERTISE HERE £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Adverts must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may not have your advert as items are sold. Sorry no refunds are given.

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Family Notices

JENKINS

Graham Robert of Llantwit Major

Died suddenly on 18th December 2012, age 73. Partner of Wendy, husband to the late Helen and father to Paula and Laurie-Ann, brother of Elizabeth and the late Bryn and Winston.

Wendy would like to thank all members of family, friends and work colleagues who attended Graham's funeral on 3rd January 2013 at Bridgend Crematorium and for the floral tributes and kind donations to the Multiple Sclerosis Society and British Heart Foundation.

Special thanks to the Reverend Huw and Mr Ian Ketchell. He will be sadly missed by all.

SYMMONDS

Sylvia Agnes

On 7th January 2013 at Holme Tower, Sylvia of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved mother of Dawn, Linda and Jill and a loving and much loved grandmother and great grandmother.

She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the Funeral Service on Friday 18th January 2013 in Cychurch Crematorium at 10.00am.

Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only).

BAXTER

Allan Geordie

On 25th December, aged 86 years.

Loving Husband of Anne, much loved Dad of Alison & Neil and Father in law of Steve and Deanne. Funeral service to be held on Monday 14th January, 12.00 noon at Cychurch Crematorium.

Family flowers only by request, donations in lieu to Ty Hafan Children's Hospice may be made c/o David Brown, Park Funeral Directors, 7 Tynwydd Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 8HB.

BURKE

Joan (Steph)

Peacefully on January 5, aged 97 years.

Loving wife to the late William (Billy) Burke, much loved mother to Anthony and Peter, mother-in-law to Shama and Heather, cherished grandmother and great-grandmother.

Will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Resting at AG Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the service in the chapel on Thursday January 17th, 2013 at 1pm, followed by an interment in Barry Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

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'Ban dogs in play areas!' - councillor

A BARRY councillor has called for a scrutiny committee to consider if dogs should be banned from entering all play areas across the Vale, in order to protect children.

Independent Richard Bertin, who represents the Barry Court ward, requested that councillors consider the matter in the economy and environment scrutiny committee. He said it was also being considered by other authorities across Wales, under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. He also wants the public to be asked if they are in favour of new dog control orders in play areas.

Coun Bertin said: "If approved, this would certainly protect children from harm in play areas and multi-use games areas.

"I have been approached by members of the public about this matter, who are keen to see something done. If approved by both scrutiny and cabinet, this would make a real difference to the community."

The Vale Council has recently employed private enforcement officers from the XFOR Company to deal with environmental issues including dog fouling. It is said that further powers to ban dogs from play areas in the Vale would help the council with dog fouling prevention and make play areas safer for children.

NEWS FROM PENARTH & DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Sampling delights that put Barry on the map

GLAD to get out on an overcast but dry morning, six walkers and dogs Bracken and Bronte joined their leaders Janet and John for a seasonal stroll around four very different Barry beaches.

Reaching Cold Knap or 'pebble beach' the group walked the promenade to Watchtower Bay and descended to cross the Old Harbour to Barry Island.

Because of lack of funding, it wasn't until the railway was built in 1896 that Barry Island became connected to the mainland.

After the first dock basin was opened at the newly-created Barry Dock in 1889, followed by two more docks, Barry was put on the map as it became a very prosperous coal exporting port and the town soon grew.

During the late 1800s, Barry Island attracted thousands of visitors, many of which arrived by train with the alternative being to use the Yellow Funnel Fleet of paddle steamers based in Cardiff, which later was taken over by the White Funnel Fleet of paddle steamers, owned by P & A Campbell from Bristol.

Then, by the early 1900s, came donkey rides, Punch and Judy shows and the addition of a promenade at Whitmore Bay - which had turnstiles charging one penny (later reduced, resulting in the promenade being nicknamed the halfpenny prom!).

Crossing the lovely

sandy bay the town is known for, the group joined the Clements Colley walk around Nell's Point, on which Butlins Holiday Camp once stood, to their last beach at Jackson's Bay before taking the cliff path uphill to the residential part of Barry Island.

From Clive Road, they were able to view the changing face of Barry Docks, now the expanding Waterfront and in the centre of the new developments, the old Dock Office stands proud.

This impressive head office of the Barry Dock Railway Company, with its Portland stone dressings and domed clock tower, opened in 1900.

Outside stands the statue of David Davies of Llandinam, the coal magnate who helped to found the successful railway and dock company which was built by the civil engineer, Thomas Andrew Walker.

Crossing part of the Waterfront, the group entered Broad Street, so named because it was the widest street in Barry at the time, and made their way down to the Parade Gardens and back to Bron y Mor after a delightful morning walk.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice.

To follow the group please log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com. Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

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Llangewydd Arms' super-heroes join the earthlings at New Year's Eve celebrations

NEW YEAR'S EVE celebrations at the Llangewydd Arms, Broadlands, Bridgend, involved quite a show of force, with dozens of super-heroes arriving from all points of the galaxy.

Among those, celebrating the arrival of the new year in the human calendar were Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Batman, Batgirl, Skeletor, Poison Ivy, Zorro, Hit Girl, and Popeye.

Batman had invited GEM photographer, Andy Wicks to record this unique occasion at which a few earthlings were also allowed to participate.

PHOTOGRAPHS
by ANDY WICKS
Telephone 07855 374478



NEWS FROM LLANTWIT MAJOR WI

THE first meeting of 2013 was held on January 3 and members welcomed Jane Hutt AM as our first guest speaker of the year.

The diversity of her working life was quite awe-inspiring and members wondered how she also managed to fit in some time for her family life, too.

She explained how the National Assembly has evolved since its inception in 1999, with the intention of decentralising power from Westminster and the various ministerial positions she has held.

She is presently Finance Minister. Her week is divided into time spent in Assembly meetings and work in her constituency.

Future hopes include upgrading the M4 and improving the viability of the airport. The question and answer session was lively and enjoyed by everyone.

Members voted for the resolution to go forward to the NFWL. The competition was won by Jean Swift and the bloom of the month by May Davies.

The next meeting will be held on February 7. Visitors and new members are welcome.



COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

NETBALLERS DO SCHOOL PROUD

THE year-7B netball team played in the Cardiff and Vale Development

Tuesday, December 11.
Due to the vast up and coming netball talent throughout our county, the Sports Council for Wales, in association with Welsh netball, put together this tournament to encourage and reward greater participation.

The rules of entry stated that no players that had played in A Team fixtures were allowed to play.

Cowbridge faced Radyr, Bro Morgannwg, Howells and Cathays in the preliminary round-robin section of the tournament and despite facing tough opposition, the Cowbridge team thrived, beating Howells 3-0, Bro Morgannwg 3-1, Radyr 3-0 and Cathays 1-0.

The team of Manou Davies, Imogen Malor, Rachel Anstey, Sarah Jones, Izzy Utley, Molly Ward-Tossell, Freya Evans, Ciraice Stimson-Jagger and Freya Johnson all played in at least two out of the four matches and played exceptionally well.

As winners of the pool, Cowbridge had a 'bye' in the next round and gained automatic qualification into the quarter finals in the cup competition. We then faced Howells second team in the quarter finals and raced to an excellent 5-0 victory, thanks to the accurate shooting of Imogen Marlor at GA and Manou Davies at GS, taking Cowbridge through to the semi-finals!

We faced Fitzalan in the semi-final, a team who were much taller than the Cowbridge girls and used their height to their full advantage to beat us 0-2 at full time.

It was a shame to go out at such a late stage in the competition but reaching the semi-finals in something the girls should be very proud of and we ended up a very respectable equal third

out of 24 teams, which is an outstanding result. Well done to all the girls!

Players of the match: Molly Ward-Tossell and Sarah Jones.

The year-10 netball team played in the preliminary round of the county tournament at Whitchurch High School on Wednesday, December 12.

Cowbridge were drawn in a really strong pool against Radyr, Plasnewydd and reigning champions Corpus Christi.

We played Radyr first and after losing to them by one point in the recent Urdd tournament, the Cowbridge girls were keen to seek revenge and forged ahead to lead 3-2 at half time.

In the second half, outstanding defence from Rebecca Thomas at GK and Hannah Lister-Sims at GD kept the Radyr attack at bay and a solid performance from Megan McNamee at C enabled the Cowbridge attack to dominate.

Kim Jerwood at GA and Laura Young at GS were on target and led the Cowbridge team to a well deserved 5-3 victory.

In the next match against Plasnewydd, Cowbridge got off to a steady and solid start taking the lead to 2-1 at half time.

In the second half, Cowbridge had the aim of reaching five goals to better the previous half's score. An excellent performance from Yas Evans at GK kept Cowbridge in contention and an outstanding team performance enabled the girls to reach their target and secure a 5-1 win.

In the final deciding match, Cowbridge played Corpus Christi, who are reigning county champions and renowned for their club and county players.

Despite a gutsy team performance, with outstanding performances from Megan McNamee

at C, Hannah Lister-Sims at WD and Kim Jerwood at GA, the Corpus team were dominant and the score finished at 10-4.

As a result, the Cowbridge girls finished second in the pool and Corpus advance to the county finals. Well done to all the girls: Yas Evans, Rebecca Thomas, Hannah Lister-Sims, Sally Gambling, Megan McNamee, Ellie Davies, Evie Williams, Kim Jerwood and Laura Young.

Player of the Match: Hannah Lister-Sims.

Well done to Kim Jerwood in year-10 who has been selected into the Cardiff Hub netball development squad.

Well done to Joanna Wilkins who has been asked to train with the under-17 Welsh Netball Squad, and also Caitlin Allin, who has achieved the most man of the match awards across netball in Cowbridge this term.

Congratulations to all the girls. Keep up the hard work!

Also, well done to Maya Bell, Ffion Vickers and Bethan Swallow, who have been selected into the second round of the Cardiff Netball Development Squad.

The next trial will take place at the end of January - good luck girls!

The year-8 Urdd netball tournament was played at the Cardiff Met, NIACC Cardiff.

We drew Bishopston in our first round. It was a very well matched game with the score showing how close the game was. We went ahead 2-1 in the first few minutes and then Bishopston came back with two goals.

Accurate shooting from Annabel Hegarty brought us up and we led 4-3. Again Bishopston came back and we lost 4-5 on the final play.

We had a long wait to play Dyffryn Aman in the second round. It was a close game again and disappointingly, the same score was repeated as we lost 4-5.

Our next match was against Pontarddulais and we were the stronger team with a final score of 4-0.

Cowbridge finally played Plasnewydd who proved the better team, winning 6-3.

Although we lost three matches and won one, the girls played well and enjoyed the experience of the day.

RUGBY

ON December 10, the Cowbridge year-8 rugby team played their third fixture of the season.

Having lost their first game in two years against Plasnewydd, Cowbridge were out to show that this was just a bad day and something that would not be occurring again anytime soon.

Cowbridge started

very well, with all the early possession and territory.

Stanwell though remained strong, and stopped Cowbridge crossing for the first try. Stanwell forced a penalty in their own 22, and began to progress down the field.

This possession did not last for long, with Cowbridge tackling hard and forcing mistakes, resulting in the ball being turned over.

Cowbridge kept on attacking, and eventually broke down the Stanwell defence. Rhys Durlucia opened the scoring, with a smashing run through the heart of the defence dive over the line. Bevan Howells to make the lead 7-0.

The second try came from some excellent rugby, with backs and forwards were interlinking brilliantly, passing the ball along the line with ease.

Reuben Williams (year-7) burst through a couple of tacklers, and provided a sublime pass to Rhidian Williams. Rhidian had a lot of work to do to get over the line and outpaced the wing, side-stepped back inside, and sent the last tackler the wrong way, for a superb individual and team try.

The first half ended, and Cowbridge were leading 12-0. With Cowbridge still not hitting their peak performance, they could not wait for the second half to begin.

Tom Williams produced the perfect start. After picking the ball up on the half-way line, Tom bashed his way through, around and over the defence, and sprinted to the try line, for a try under the posts.

Tom highlighted his talent by starting the game at No 8, but switching to wing for the second half, and doing an excellent job at both positions.

Cowbridge were not finished yet, and kept on turning the screw. A quick penalty was taken by Ioan Williams. The ball was passed out to Rhys Bradshaw, who wriggled his way through the defence, and slipped the ball to Bevan, who ran a great supporting angle and scored the try.

Cowbridge had enough time for Rhidian to score his second try of the match. Reuben, again heavily involved in the play, made the hard yards, and then with outstanding decision making and handling skills, shipped the ball to Rhidian outside, to run in for the last try of the match.

Bevan added further insult to injury, by kicking the conversion from the touchline.

The game ended, and Cowbridge won 33-0.

Players of the match: Rhidian Williams, Tom Williams, Reuben Williams and Rhys Durlucia.

SKIING

FOLLOWING the success of pupils in the Welsh Schools skiing competition, two girls and two boys teams got through to the British School Artificial Skiing competition, held this year in Pontypool on November 18.

It was a bitterly cold but sunny day, perfect fast conditions for the ski slope, if not for the spectators. We had success with our boys A team finishing in second overall position, well done boys.

The boys B team finished 19th and unfortunately, both girls' teams were not placed, with too many disqualified runs.

Individual results:
Ben Thomas - 10th (40.96); Harry Hopkins - 11th (41.15); Ben Jones - 38th (48.54); Jamie Griffiths - 50th (50.57); Henry Jones - 61st (53.17); Nick Griffiths - 62nd (53.23); John Harvey - 63rd (54.00).

Girls results:
Amy Oliver - 54th (1.05.35); Sophia Harpin - 55th (1.06.82); Olivia Brown dnf; Caitlin Jones dnf; Hannah Crosby dnf; Maisie Beech dnf; Cerys Bradshaw dnf; Suzy Jones dnf.

Well done to all those who took part.

FOOTBALL ON a cold December afternoon, the Cowbridge year-10 football team entertained Gantaf in a second round cup tie.

The 3G artificial pitch was used in order to preserve the grass pitches, currently recovering from the sustained poor weather.

Cowbridge kicked off and it was immediately apparent that Gantaf would provide stern opposition.

The Welsh school were keen to dominate possession and included a number of passing midfielders in their ranks.

Allied to the size of the spine of their side, Cowbridge were going to have to be at their battling best.

However, this particular team does not lack for character and coach/ref Mr Lewis was confident of a competitive fixture.

After some early tussles, with both sides defending stoutly, Gantaf counter attacked and pounced to take a 1-0 lead.

They were pegged back within five minutes as Max Ragan scooped a cross-shot into the top right-hand corner of the opposition net.

The remainder of the half was characterised by Gantaf controlling possession but Cowbridge looking increasingly dangerous, attacking on either flank.

The second half continued in the same competitive manner, with both sides determined pressing for the vital winner, and Gantaf



seized the initiative with a decent shot that gave them a one-goal advantage.

Again, Cowbridge fought back and some neat interplay on the left produced an equaliser. Furious attacking from both sides could not produce a winner and extra time was required.

Both sides looked dangerous as the added time unfolded, but it was undoubtedly the home side that was the more adventurous, taking the game to Gantaf and three times testing their 'keeper.

In the last minute of extra time, when Gantaf had certainly settled for a penalty shootout, Cowbridge poured forward.

A cross from the left and a header directed toward goal resulted in a Gantaf defender handling on the line to prevent the winner from being scored.

Referee Lewis had no option but to award the penalty and Joe Treharne stepped up and slotted the ball home.

With the final seconds played out under tremendous Gantaf pressure, the home side held on for a great win.

HOCKEY THE year-7 hockey team played seven-a-side matches against Bro Morgannwg on an extremely cold wet afternoon.

Cowbridge A team had a good first match, with a 0-0 result at the end.

In the second game, Cowbridge lost 3-2, with goals from Ffion McNamee and Mali Howell. Ffion was named player of the match.

Team: Ffion McNamee, Mali Howell, Aimee Jones, Meriel Clode, Emily Jenkins, Georgia Armitage and Rachel Anstey.

Cowbridge B team lost their first match 6-0 and their second match 2-1, with the goal scored by Amelia Bent.

Special mention must go to Sarah Jones, Eleanor Acey and Kate Workman, who worked hard throughout the game.

Team: Amelia Bent, Sarah Jones, Francesca Weir, Isabelle Utley, Eleanor Acey, Rose Farr, Mia Riddick and Kate Workman.

The senior hockey

team played Whitchurch and Howells in the county final on December 11 at Whitchurch on a really cold evening.

We played a hard fought match against Whitchurch and had several breaks into their goal circle.

They defended really well, stopping us scoring in the first half.

In the second half, Rachel Bradshaw broke through and scored. The standard of play was excellent, with Katie Howson and Rachel Bradshaw feeding each other and the play was backed up with skilled work from Izzy Eddy-Williams and Rosa

Hartman. Final score 1-0. In our second match, we were stronger, even though Howells had more breaks through into our circle.

We defended very well and cleared the ball convincingly, Laura Howells playing outstandingly.

We scored twice, Rachel Bradshaw coming through on her own to score a clean goal, and then Olivia Brown, making the final score 2-0.

Cowbridge go through to the Welsh final to be played in North Wales on March 5.

Very well done girls.

Rugby quiz clash will help the Stepping Stones Appeal

WELSH rugby is getting behind a popular local charity - the Stepping Stones Appeal.

Present and past stars of the Ospreys and Cardiff Blues will battle it out in a Question of Sport special in aid of Velindre Cancer Centre's Stepping Stones Appeal, the Ospreys' chosen charity for the 2012/13 season.

Adam Jones, Alun Wyn Jones, Ian Gough, Sam Warburton, Martyn Williams and Tom Shanklin will be just some of the team members at the event, which takes place on Thursday, February 28, at The Towers Hotel in Swansea.

Ospreys captain Alun Wyn Jones said: "We're all looking forward to going head to head with the Blues for a great cause."

"We've got Adam Jones in our team and with his record when he appeared on TV in a Question of Sport, we are confident of securing the win."

Martyn Williams said: "We know we're up against one of the country's foremost sporting anoraks in Adam Jones and we go in as firm underdogs. However, with Tom Shanklin in the team, anything is possible!"

Tickets for this event are £35 each and tables of 10 are available. The price includes a drink on arrival, a three-course dinner, superb entertainment plus a raffle and auction with some fantastic prizes.

Tickets can be booked online at: www.velindrefundraising.com/book online or call Velindre Fundraising on 029 2031 6211.

Velindre Cancer Centre launched the Stepping Stones Appeal, a lung cancer research programme, to both increase awareness of their work, and to raise the money necessary to continue to fund and expand their research programmes.

Following the success of a number of fundraising initiatives including the Captains' Climb of Mount Kilimanjaro, Mair's Walk and the Stepping Stones rugby gala dinners, over £350,000 has been invested enabling the Wales Cancer Bank to be able to collect lung cancer samples for the first time ever.

These samples will then be used by researchers around the world to improve understanding of lung cancer, which will help in the search for new treatments.

All change at Shotokan club

DUE to the changes made recently at Llantwit Leisure Centre, it has been necessary for the Llantwit Major Shotokan Karate club to seek new premises.

I am pleased to report that due to the kind support of Wing Commander Paul Regan, Officer Commanding MOD St Athan and his PE staff, we are now up and running in the MoD St Athan Gymnasium.

Club nights remain as before, Wednesday and Friday 6.30-8pm. Access to the MoD Camp is through East Gate guard room and all

new members will be escorted onto the premises by a club member.

We have superb facilities and I would like to invite and encourage all those looking to keep fit and learn a discipline which will last for life, to come along and give karate a try. The first session is free so you have nothing to lose.

Please contact Sensei Simon Dodd on 01446 751077 or 07917441138 for more details.

I would just like to add a 'happy new year' to all my students and thank you for your continued support during these changes. It is much appreciated.

SIMON DODD

Barry Youth's winning run comes to a crashing halt!

HAVING had matches postponed due to inclement weather, and after being without training facilities over the Christmas period, Barry Youth were more than a little rusty going into this fixture with Pentryrch.

To add further problems, there were players absent from key positions.

Within minutes of the kick-off, confusion in the centre led to a huge gap which Pentryrch took advantage of, and they scored a converted try through their winger.

A similar error minutes later led to a chip over the Barry defence and a race to the line by the Pentryrch winger. This time the Barry scrum half got back to make it a drop out 22.

Barry rallied from this

early onslaught and found themselves camped in the opposition 22 for long periods of time. Sadly, four Barry line-outs were robbed by Pentryrch, cancelling out good scoring opportunities.

Pentryrch eventually cleared their lines and Barry had to come away from without a score.

Just on the half, Pentryrch robbed another Barry line-out and moved it through the

backs to their wing, who scored an unconverted try.

Early in the second half, Barry were turned over in the loose – something that was now beginning to happen regularly – and Pentryrch came away with another unconverted try.

On top this, captain Luke O'Sullivan had to leave the field due to injury. Although Barry battled hard, tackled well and individually played

ruggedly, as a team they didn't.

There was no cohesion, support was lacking and they did not commit numbers in the loose, whereas Pentryrch were doing the opposite and soon scored another converted try.

Pentryrch heeled their first against the head and with the line in sight drove and scored again.

The next score, however, did belong to Barry when John Miles ripped a ball from a Pentryrch maul and passed back to Lucas Davies who drove 20 metres down the blind side to score an unconverted try.

But back at the office, Pentryrch stuck to their game plan, carried on driving relentlessly, giving their back division plenty of quick going forward ball, and this resulted in two more unconverted tries.

The final score was 39-5 the heaviest loss for a long time and the end of a six-match winning run.

Squad: Blake Wall, David Evans, Mathew O'Sullivan, Lucas Davies, Rhidian Mephram, Tom Adams, Jack Legg, Jake Adams, Kieran Davies, Sion Vidal, Mitchell Scott, Jamie Oaten, John Miles, Emyr Byrne, Luke O'Sullivan, Josh Taylor, Andre Williamson and Tom Ellis.

MM

News from Brynhill Golf Club Ladies

THE wet and very muddy conditions have badly affected the ladies this winter, and the turnout for competitions has been very low, but despite the weather, some excellent scores were recorded.

Congratulations to the following players who 'weathered the storm' and won!

Turkey trots:
November 27 (week 1), 8 holes winner Linda Hewlett, 14 points;
December 4 (week 2), 10 holes winner Jane Phillips, 17 points;
December 11 (week 3), 10 holes winner Linda Hewlett, 17 points;
December 18 (week 4), 10 holes winner Rose Pitman, 21 points.

The final competition, held on December 18, was in conjunction with a mince pie and wine morning, the wine generously donated by the present ladies' captain Julie Harkin, and this year's vice-captain Carole Bumford.

Nibbles and pies were made by the ladies and were enjoyed by the large number who obviously found the social occasion more attractive than the golf.

Raffles were organised and the proceeds generously donated to Velindre Hospital.

AP



Past captain Jo Kirkpatrick (right) presenting the hamper raffled for Velindre Hospital to Alma Sheppard.



Vice captain Carole Bumford dispensing Christmas cheer!

Rose Pitman, winner of the mince pie competition.

Barry Bees take sting out of Newport HSOB's power pack

BARRY Bees under-10s entertained an extremely powerful Newport High School Old Boys side after the festive break.

It was clear from the first tackle that the Old Boys game plan would be based around their huge forwards, when a fearless Stephen Williams scythed down one of their enormous second rowers as he pounded remorselessly down the slope.

This set the pattern for the opening encounters with the Bees' defence pushing their much bigger opponents backwards, and eventually forcing the inevitable turnover, with stand-off Cian Anderson scoring the opener from the Bees first possession, after a signature dummy.

The Newport side were clearly not used to such unrelenting tack-

ling and the Bees seized the initiative, with flying prop Rhys Lloyd taking a defence-splitting pass on the wing, outpacing the covering defence to score in the corner.

The Old Boys responded strongly and using the slope to their advantage, scored a deserved try to bring them back into contention.

This again spurred the Bees on, and tireless hooker Jacob Pereira bustled his way over after a series of powerful drives from the forwards to put Barry in a commanding position at the break.

With the slope in their favour for the second half, the Bees were expecting to dominate, but the Old Boys were far from beaten, and their sheer power was taking its toll on the Barry boys, as they gained the initiative at the break-down with some aggressive ruck-

With the Bees struggling to cope with the increased tempo Newport scored two excellent tries to bring the scores level.

The game was now in the balance but the Bees showed their usual indomitable spirit to quell the Newport power, and their superior ball skills and technical ability came to the fore, as they dominated the closing stages of the match.

Two great tries from Cian made the final score 25-15 in what was a full blooded match that was much enjoyed by the parents from both sides.

Squad: Isaac McBride, Jacob Pereira, Rhys Lloyd, Dylan Morris, Ethan Watkins, Joseph Nationstead, Joe Tanner, Stephen Williams, Cian Anderson, Spencer Williams, James Chapman, Taylor Ross-Zeal, Cole Saunders, Robson Mallam, Simon McKenzie. JM

MM

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Citroen DS3 offers style, practicality and speed

Those are the three key qualities of the Citroen DS3 Ultra Prestige that I am testing this week.

The moment I clap eyes on the sleek white hatch with blacked out rear windows and detailed alloys, I know that we're going to get on well.

I can relate to the DS3 because Citroen has taken the hatchback and added its own unique angle, much in the same way that I try to with my writing. No matter what you do in life, if you can stand out from the crowd for all the right reasons you'll do well and that's what Citroen specialises in.

The French manufacturer, so my wife, an

experienced graphic designer and artist tells me, has taken the DS letters and created a unique logo, splashing it liberally throughout the vehicle. This distinctive emblem can be found in black across the roof while a chrome version can be found on the boot and bonnet. It is also used on the dashboard.

Externally the DS3 is a very appealing package and this is maintained inside. It's only available as a three-door, which is just as well as it would lose its charm if two extra ones were added.

This range-topping model has a choice of two engines: a 1.6-litre petrol or a diesel.

There's a stark difference in performance and economy figures for the pair. The petrol will hit

60mph from standstill in about seven seconds and has a top speed of 130mph.

It will return 47mpg; so does the 1.4-litre VW Polo but that takes over four seconds longer to travel from 0-60mph.

Diesel drivers are always most interested in economy so the 74mpg is sure to please them while the 9.4secs 0 to 60mph and 118mph top speed is more than adequate.

As I slide into the superb leather seat that cossets in all the right places, the first thing that catches the eye is the two-tone black and cream leather dashboard.

This is mirrored on the seats. The designers have really gone to town on the DS3 and the driver certainly feels they are driving a prestigious

MOTORING with TIM SAUNDERS

vehicle as the name suggests.

There's a traditional handbrake rather than any of this modern electric nonsense and a very good six-speed manual gearbox. This is a proper driver's car with some room in the rear, large enough at any rate to fit daughter Harriett in her cumbrous baby seat; although it is a bit of a struggle to get it into the rear due to the front seat not going far enough forward.

For a car of this size more should be made of the room inside. When there are rear passengers those in the front have to have their seats so far forward that it is uncomfortable. The boot is

only as large as my Fiesta's while there is less room in the back for rear passengers.

An annoying rattle develops during the course of the test, which my wife reckons comes from the stereo.

But it's loaded with goodies including cruise control. This is operated by a fixed stalk on the left of the steering wheel, which is a good idea so that it can be easily operated no matter how much the wheel is turned.

This function is useful on a long motorway jaunt and it is reasonably reliable when travelling uphill maintaining speed within a few mph. But when travelling downhill

it does not hold the set speed; a hindrance in a residential area with speed cameras.

Other luxuries include air conditioning, electric windows and a good quality stereo. The black wing mirrors, which contrast beautifully against the white bodywork, automatically fold when the car's locked as you can see in the video at testdrives.biz.

Its boot is large enough to fit the shopping or a briefcase and laptop bag. Twice I hit my head on the black parcel shelf, which merges into the black of the cold winter's night. It seems to be just at the right spot to catch me as I bend down to grab my bags from the boot.

Parkers, the car experts, write: "The Citroen DS3 is the first

in a range of very different Citroen models that put the emphasis on style and personality, along with strong performance and driver appeal. Indeed, it has a lot going for it in the looks department: the sharkfin-shaped mid-pillar isn't traditional - you might even call it quirky - and the overall shape is much slicker than the more sedate C3 on which it is based. The 'DS' badge reflects Citroen's glory days when it built armadillo-shaped super saloons with hydro-pneumatic suspension that wafted and wallowed with a sense of occasion that no

other manufacturer could match. With its stylish looks and compact size, it's easy to see why so many comparisons have been drawn with the popular Mini and Fiat 500."

Verdict: An excellent driver's car and those with short friends will have no complaints, especially if they have no need to get anything from the boot!

New price range:
£14,850 - £20,950
Citroën DS3 (10 on):
0-60mph: 7.1secs, top speed: 130mph, power: 155bhp, economy: 47mpg, fuel tank: 48 litres.

Watch the video at: www.testdrives.biz.



PICTURED: Wayne Harhry, Jamie Halford, Emily Halford, Morganne Gomez Jones, Matthew Bennett, Bradley Halford, Alan Evans, Ron Thomas, Mason Blackley, Cody Jacobsen, Evan Baron, Joel Wells, Brook Baker and Thomas Haysham.

Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do annual awards

ON Friday, December 21, the Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do celebrated an extremely successful year with its annual awards presentation and disco at Market Street Club.

The night was a great success with parents and students alike all enjoying themselves.

The 'best beginner award' went to Brook Baker, while the 'most potential' trophy was awarded to Evan Baron. Evan was also the recipient of the club's 'best of grading' at the last grading of 2012.

The 'most improved female' and 'most improved male' awards went to Emily Halford and Mason Blackley; they have both worked hard at their basic techniques showing that they have a good future within the martial art of Tae Kwon Do.

'Competitor of 2012' went to Thomas Haysham, who has moved up a category and is now competing against bigger opponents, but this has not deterred him.

Joel Wells was the recipient of the persever-

ance trophy, as over the past year he has showed remarkable perseverance not only on the tournament scene, but also in weekly training.

Cody Jacobsen received the 'best attendance' trophy having only missed three training sessions all year, showing not only his dedication but also his parents' commitment to his training.

The 'Indomitable Spirit award' went to Alan Evans; Alan has only been competing for the past six months and has shown his will to win along with good sportsmanship.

Two special awards are given out in memory of Charles Ames and Michael Conibear, and the very popular Bradley Halford was the recipient of the 'Michael Conibear (star student) award', which was donated to the club by Michael's mother.

Wayne Harhry received the 'Charles Ames Memorial Shield', for his work with the students and for winning his personal battle over the past 12 months.

'Student of the year' went to Matthew Bennett for his all-round ability hard work and dedication to the art of Tae Kwon Do.

For further information and training times, call 01446 406372.

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GEM sport

ATHLETIC START NEW YEAR WITH SOLID VICTORY

IT was a happy new year for Bridgend Athletic as they secured a bonus point 31-18 victory away to Beddau in the National Championship.

It was also the first occasion the Athletic had won at Mount Pleasant Park, and was by far their best performance to date in the Championship. All 19 players used played to their potential on the day.

The Athletic got off to an amazing start. They kicked off and good following up saw prop Rod Apsee charge down an attempted clearance kick.

He regathered and put the supporting flanker Lloyd Evans in under the posts for possibly the quickest try inside 30

seconds in the Championship to date. Captain, and outside half, Steven Lewis added the conversion.

This gave the team great confidence and playing down the slope they took the game to Beddau. After 10 minutes player-coach/centre Stuart Morris made an excellent break on half way. He ran into the 22 before passing outside to full back Rhys Thomas.

An inside pass to Rod Apsee saw the mobile prop cross behind the posts. Lewis again converted to put his side 14-0 ahead.

Almost immediately Beddau wing Tim Benjamin reduced the deficit with a twenty metre penalty when the Athletic were penalised at a scrum. The rest of the half was fought out

mainly in no man's land as both sides cancelled each other out.

On the stroke of half time Athletic flanker Lloyd Evans was yellow carded for a technical offence and Benjamin reduced the home side's deficit to 14-6 at the break.

On the restart playing down the slope and with a slight wind advantage Beddau made their extra man count. They opened up play switching from left to right for centre Curtis Cunningham to speed over wide out. The conversion failed – but Beddau, now only three points behind, had their tails up.

Evans return restored the numerical advantage and the Athletic went back on the attack. Within two minutes of his return No 8 Sean Derrick showed initially tremendous strength to break clear from a ruck, and then a great turn of speed to race from half way into the 22, before good hands saw wing James Olds benefit from a long pass to scamper over in the corner. Lewis made an excellent touch-line conversion to put his side 21-11 ahead.

Despite inaction for four weeks due to the inclement weather the



Sean Derrick evades a tackler.
PICTURES BY KERRY FOTHERGILL

Athletic had maintained their fitness with regular training sessions – including one at the Welsh team headquarters at the Vale Resort.

This now kicked in and they got the upper hand at forward. The front row of Liam Griffin, Nathan Holman and Rod Apsee, and later replacements Evan Yardley and Matt Muir returning to his old stamping ground, held their own against a physically larger Beddau front row unit.

Griffin was also outstanding in the loose with a very high tackle count. Locks Jonathon Stoker, Morgan Evans and replacement Griff Davies were prepared to put their bodies on the line in attack and defence.

The back row, led by vice captain Sean Williams, Lloyd Evans, Sean Derrick and replacement Ben Thomas, completely nullified their Beddau opponents and were quickest to the breakdown.

Athletic pressure led to a penalty converted by Steven Lewis. Then arrived the bonus point try and try of the game.

The Athletic patiently went through the phases with a series of drives around half way.

This softened up the defence and flanker Lloyd Evans spotted a gap to race down the touch line and throw an inside pass to No 8 Derrick, who beat two players to cross under the posts.

Lewis converted for a match haul of 11 points and his 108th point of the season and also stretched the Athletic lead to 31-11.

Half backs Aled Thomas and Lewis kept the Athletic on the front foot with astute tactical kicking and regular snipes from Thomas to tie in the Beddau back row.

Beddau went all out to reduce the deficit and it took magnificent tackles by wing Nick Hinton (twice), centre Michael Hathaway and scrum half Aled Thomas to keep them out.

They finally crossed for a consolation try in the 74th minute when replacement lock Owen Sheppard took a quick tap penalty from five metres out to bulldoze his way over.

Benjamin added the conversion to complete the scoring and leave the Athletic with a welcome 31-18 bonus point victory.

**CONTINUED
ON PAGE 29**

Mules make Plate progress

IT was with great relief to both Kenfig Hill and Skewen that this SWALEC Plate game finally started at the third attempt.

Kenfig Hill attacked from the start with the forwards gaining possession, the backs spun the ball and full back Raymond Evans entered the line, bursting through to score, outside half Nicky Giles adding the conversion.

Skewen attacked from the restart and their big forwards exerted pressure on the Mules but the home defence was resolute with the forwards holding their own in a series of scrums close to the line. Skewen were eventually awarded a penalty which their outside half James Ball converted.

Kenfig Hill had two players sin binned in



Matthew Davies.
PICTURE BY PETER GILLING.

quick succession but the 13 Mules were more than a match for the visitors, holding their own in the scrums and in a dazzling move from their own 25 Raymond Evans scored his second try of the game, with Giles converting.

Skewen tried hard to score but Alun Brace and Chris Tossell in the centre stopped every move with some solid tackling.

Kenfig Hill went on the offensive straight from the kick off and went close to scoring on two occasions, dropping the ball close to the line before Alun Brace showed some delicate skills, ghosting his way through the covering defence to score under the posts, Giles converting.

Scrum half Tom Briggs then got in on the act sprinting from the half way line for a brilliant individual try, Giles putting over the long conversion.

Skewen then started playing some good rugby and scored two quick tries through Reece Jenkins and James Ball, with Ball putting over the two conversions.

This spurred Kenfig Hill back into action and after some good passing movements Raymond Evans finished off with his third try of the afternoon.

This gave a final score of Kenfig Hill 33, Skewen 17.

Alun Brace was named as man of the match with a fine all round display in attack and defence, with his partnership with captain Chris Tossell in the centre developing into one of the strongest in the league.

It is pleasing to see Raymond Evans returning to top form after a long lay off through injury.

The forwards played particularly well against a big Skewen pack and in the second half dominated the scrums and line outs. Jason Davies had another outstanding game in the back row and Matthew Tossell gave his usual solid performance when he came on as substitute.

The Mules have drawn Seven Sisters away in the third round of the Plate, and the game is to be played on January 19.

GOS



Sean Williams takes on Beddau's no.8.

Pencoed win moves them up the table

PENCOED reversed the early season one point home defeat against Bryncoch with a convincing 35-21 victory in the Neath valley.

The Pencoed backs enjoyed their most productive afternoon of the season, accounting for all six tries, outside half Marc Davies prompting his threequarter line with a variation of short and long passes.

Pencoed scored in the opening minute, scrum half Ben Read capitalising on an aborted home clearance to pounce for a gift score. Bryncoch responded to take the lead for the only time in the match with a converted try through their pack.

Pencoed quickly regained the lead, Davies releasing Lloyd Bargery with a well timed short pass, the young centre breaking the gain line for Marc Davies to race in from 20 metres.

Sustained Pencoed pressure saw Davies extend his side's lead with a penalty goal. Pencoed continued putting width on their game

and causing the home side problems with their pace out wide, one such attack bringing their next try.

Read took an inside pass following a full round of passing from his threequarter line. Pencoed player/coach, and eventual man of the match, Aaron Halse was leading by example, winning loose ball on the floor, this allied to his athleticism around the park.

Against the run of play a lapse in the Pencoed defence saw the home side score at the posts and reduce the Pencoed lead to 18-14.

Approaching the interval Pencoed had the last say of the half, Davies and flanker Halse showing good hands to put Glen Hiscocks in possession, and the full back, who is enjoying his best season for the club to date, needed no second invitation to race over wide out for a 23-14 lead.

Early in the second half Halse was again instrumental in Pencoed's next score, breaking away in his own half for the ball to reach wing Richie Samuel who sped in from 30 metres.

It was now Pencoed's turn to

defend, hooker Tom Drew saving what appeared a certain try with a fine cover tackle at the corner flag. Second row Paul Macfarlane then got his side out of trouble bursting through a tackle in his own 22 before setting off on a sixty metre run.

Unfortunately, supporting prop forward Andrew Shillam unable to hold on to the offload. Pencoed replacement wing Aaron Songhurst was soon in the action, finishing off good combined play at pace to cross wide out, and Davies converted for a 35-14 lead.

To their credit the home side were not finished and once again their pack drove over in the dying moments for a final scoreline of 21-35.

This win saw Pencoed move above Bryncoch into fifth place in Division 3 south west. On Saturday Pencoed host fourth placed Morriston at the Recreation ground and a home win without conceding any bonus points will see them move into the top four.

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